PLUTO
URASAWA X TEZUKA
A NEW VISION BASED ON ASTRO BOY – 'THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH'
BY NAOKI URASAWA AND OSAMU TEZUKA
CO-AUTHORED WITH TAKASHI NAGASAKI
SUPERVISED BY MACOTO TEZKA
WITH THE COOPERATION OF TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS

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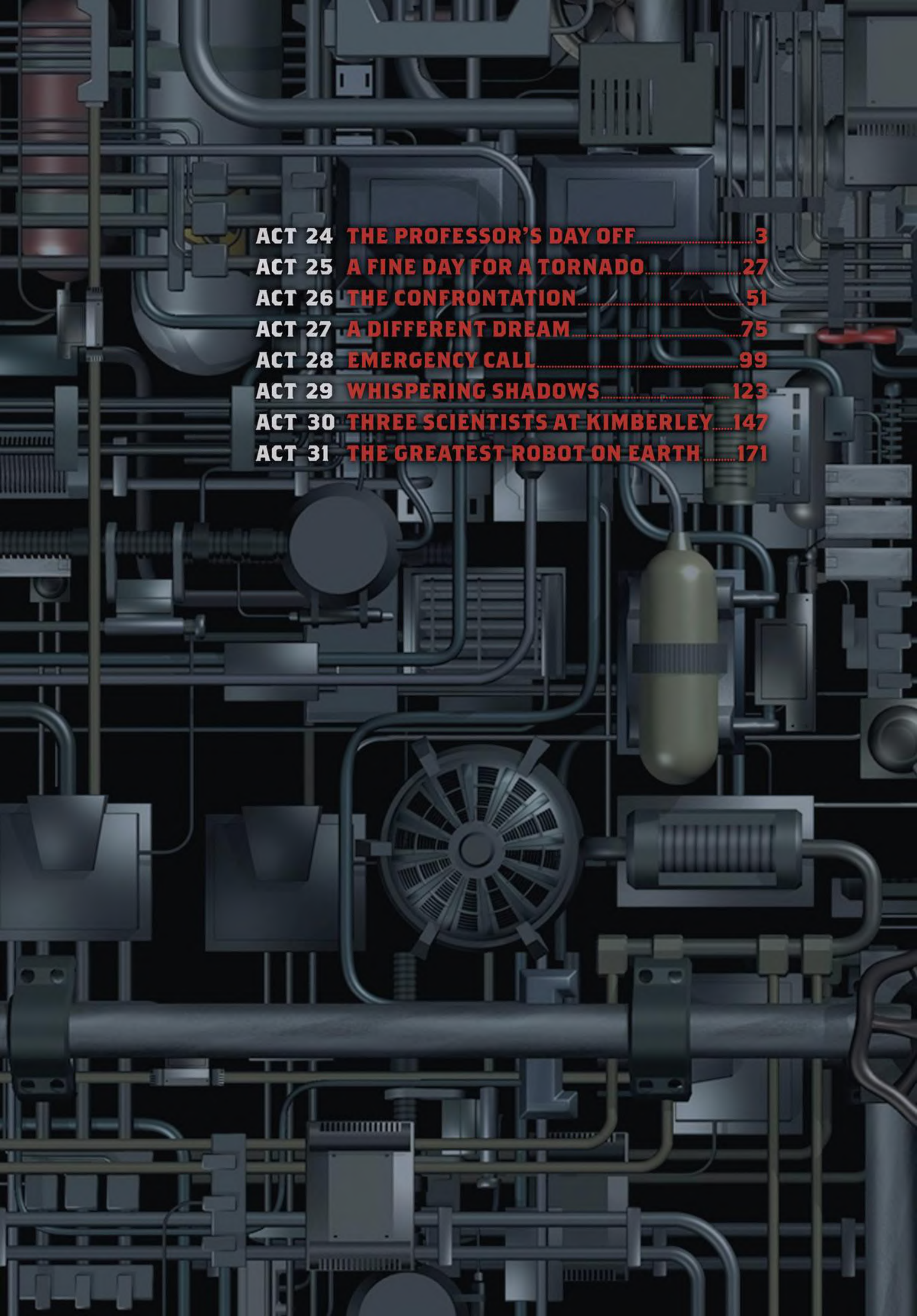

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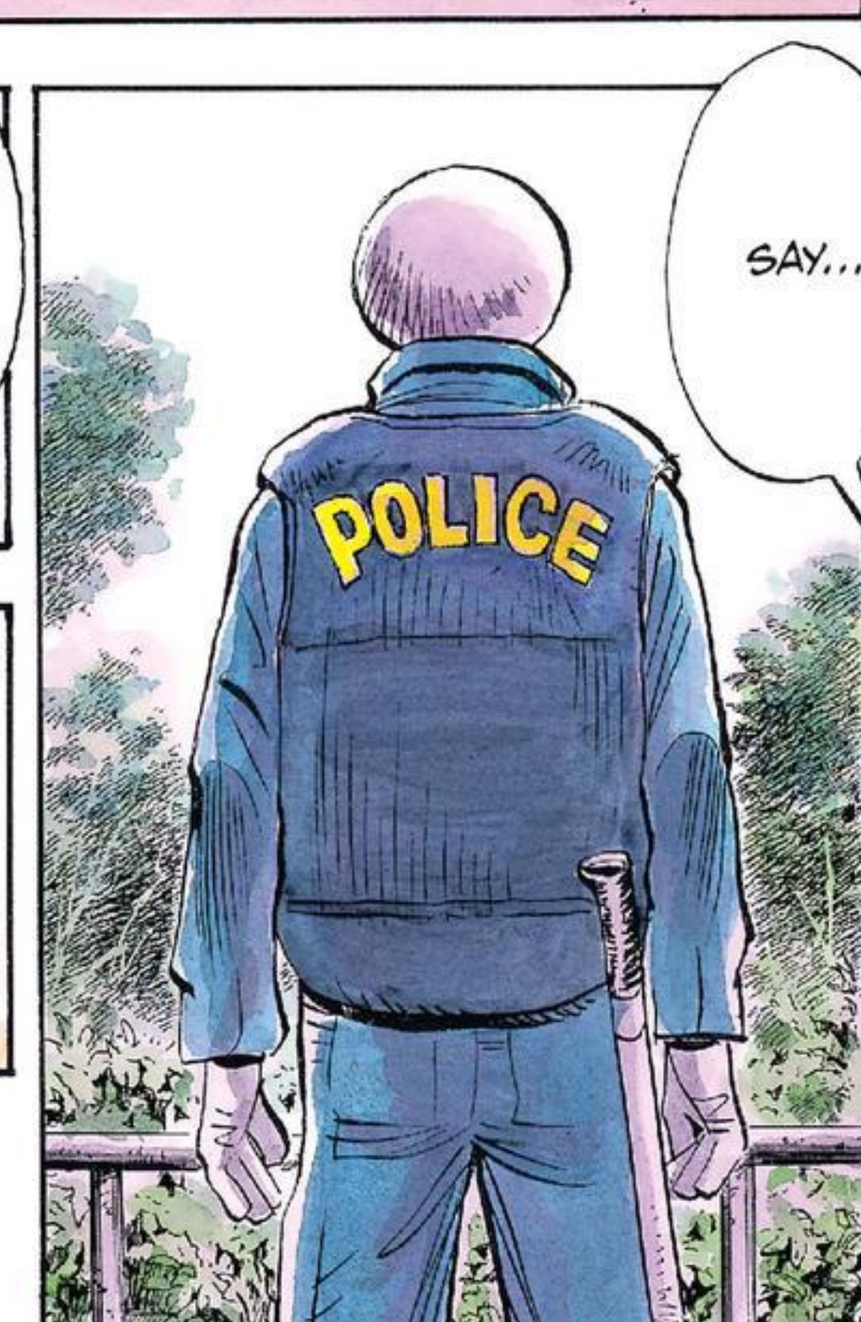
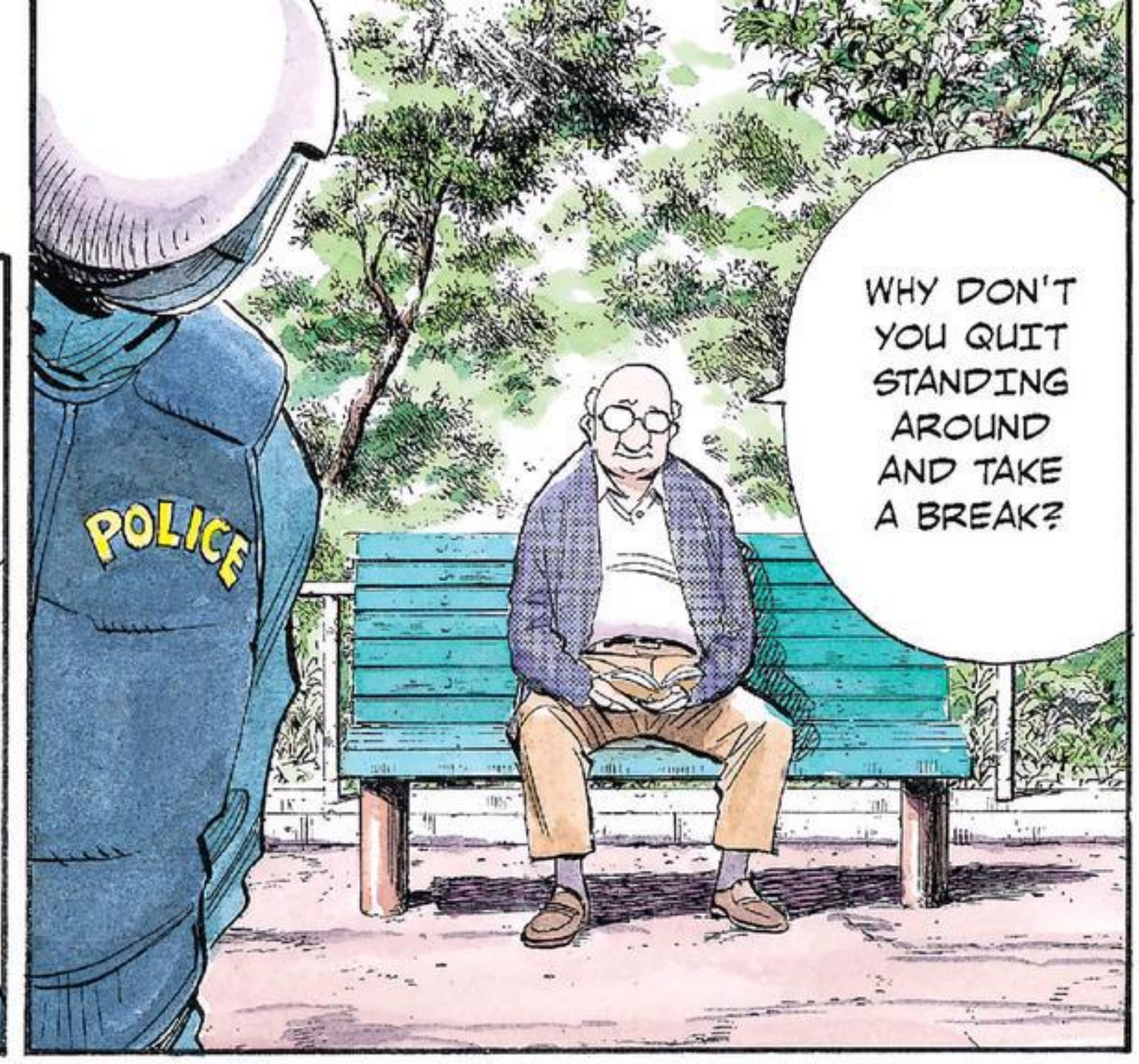
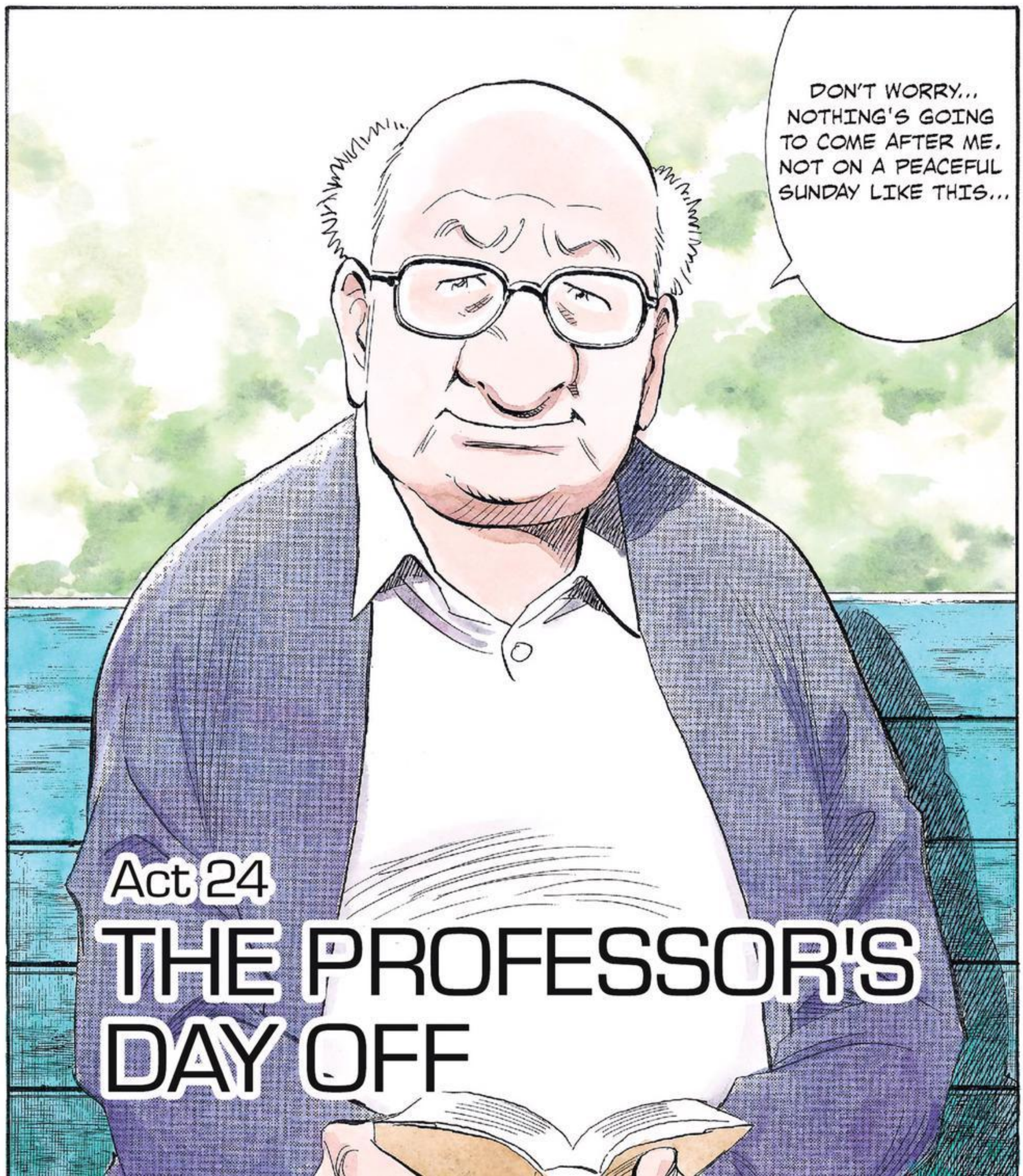
POLICE

LISTEN, FRIEND...

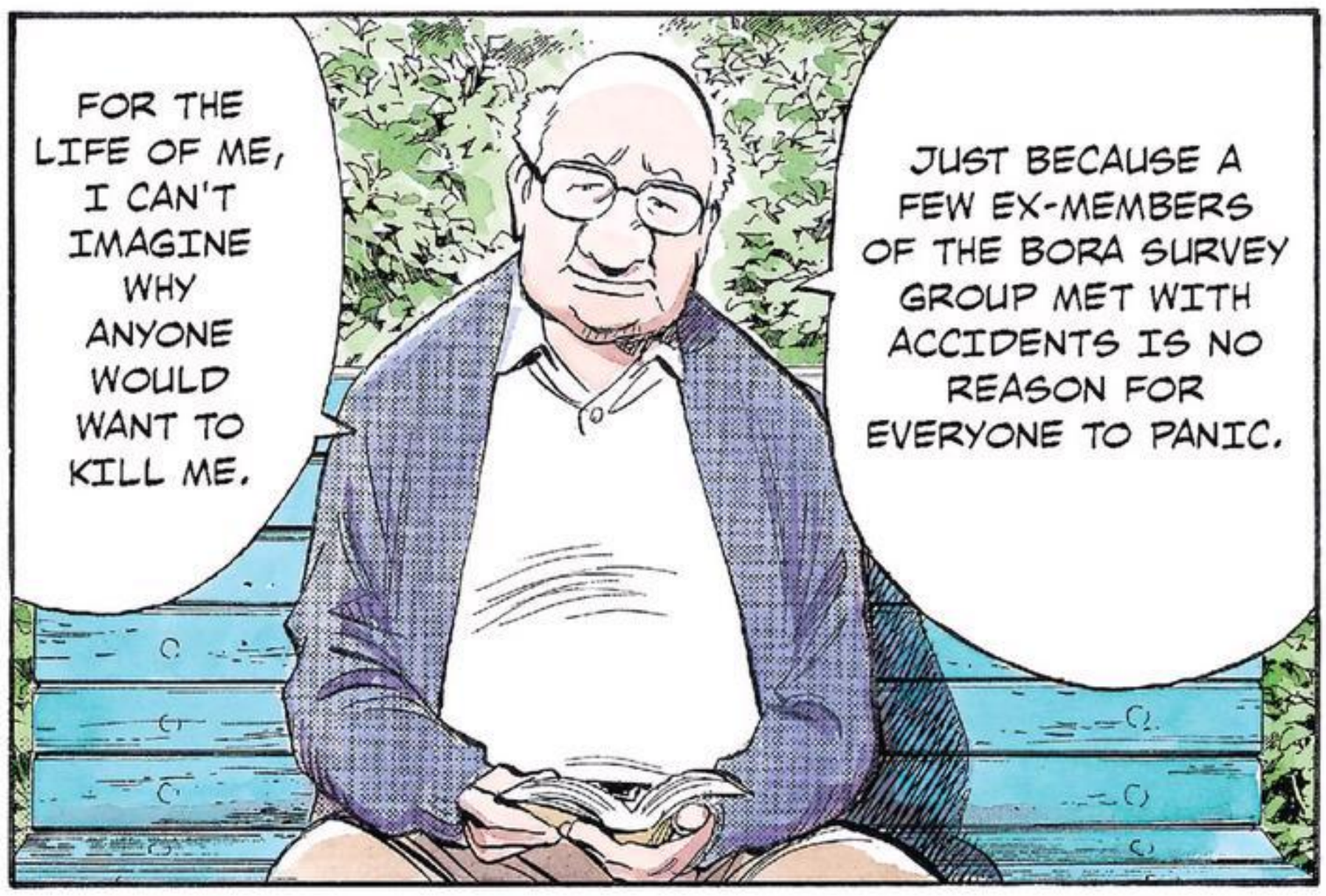
WHAT?


SAY...
POLICE

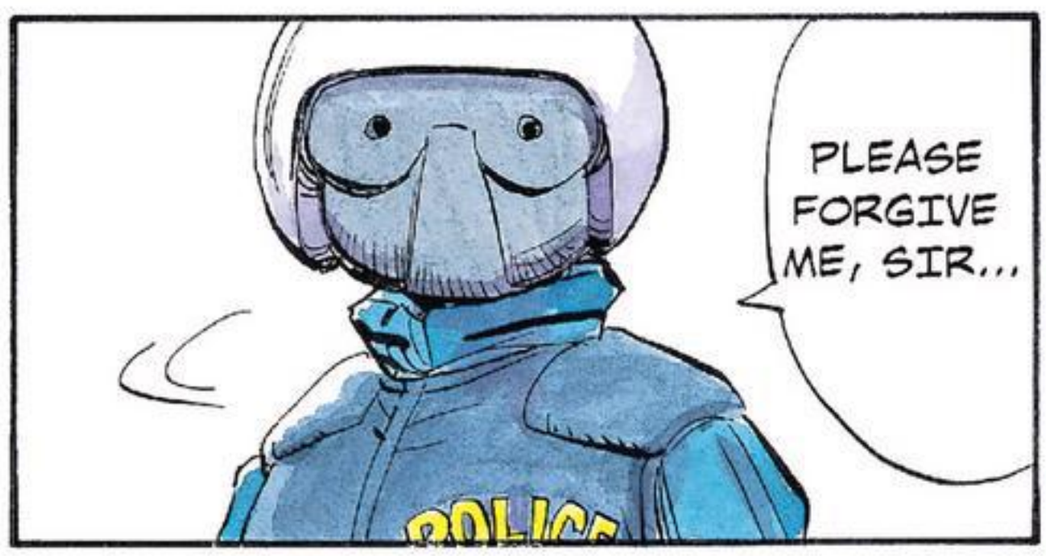




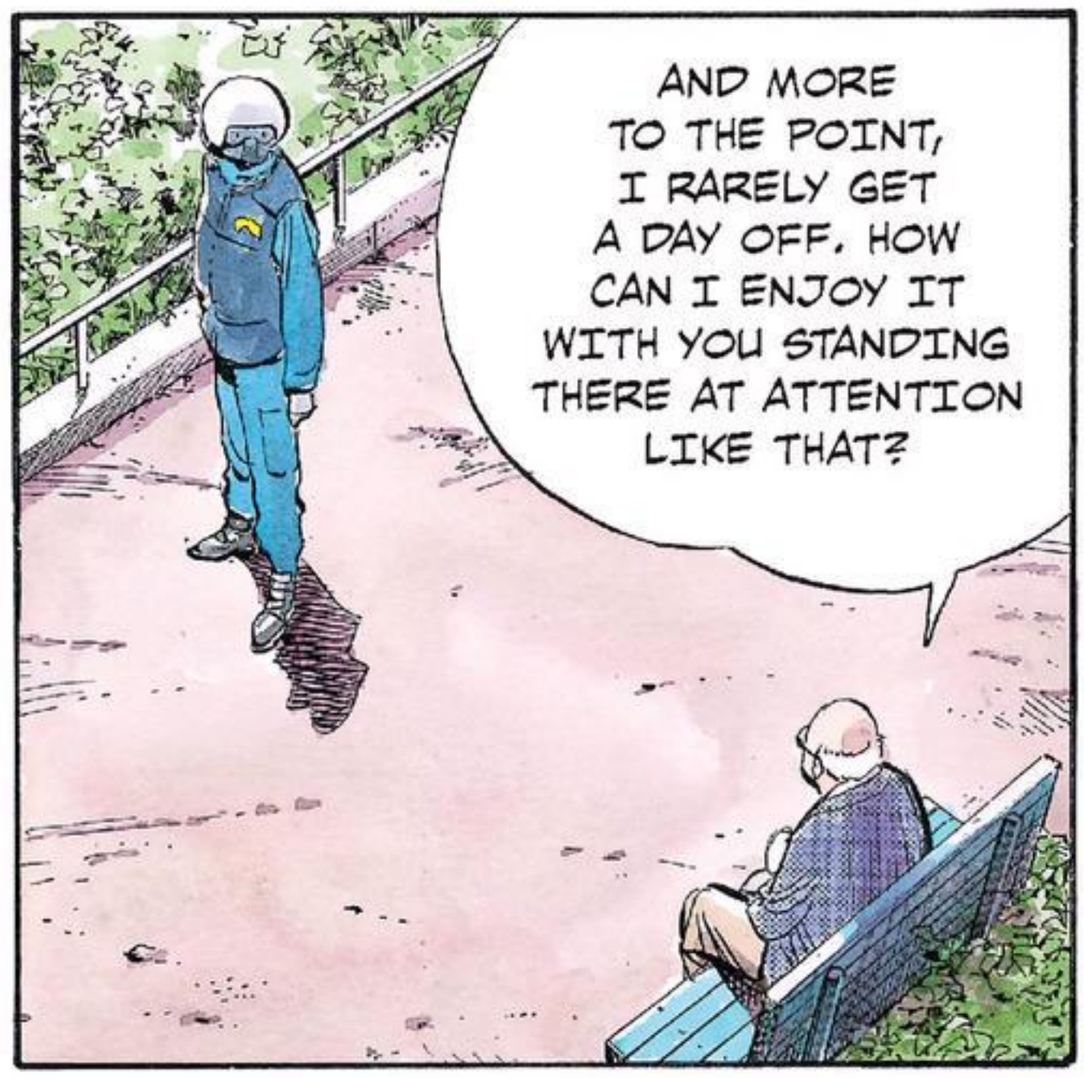
Act 24
THE PROFESSOR'S DAY OFF

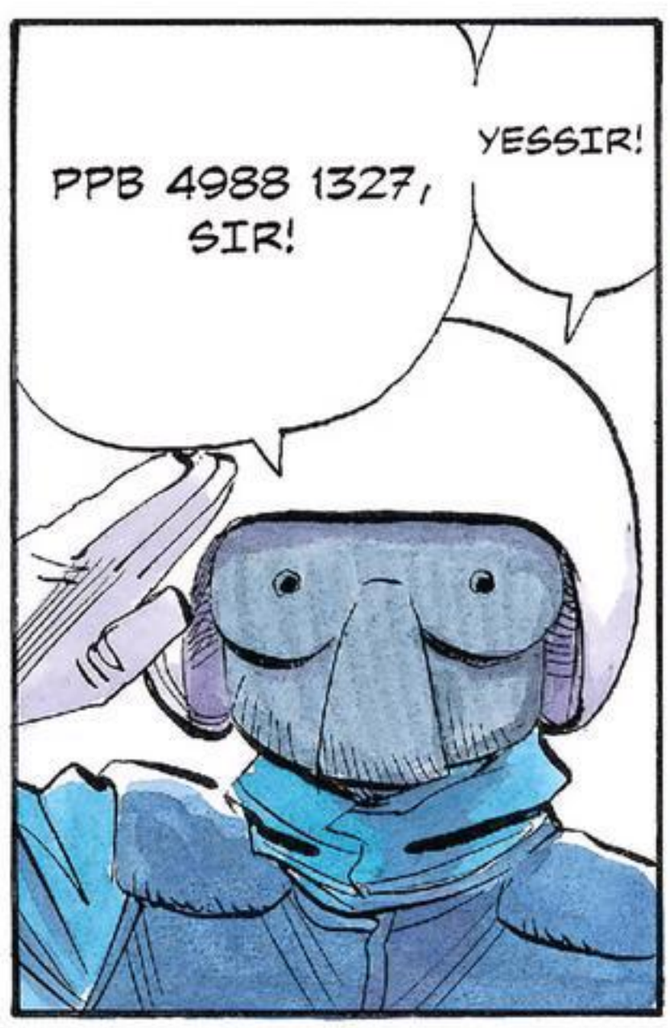

FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO KILL ME.
JUST BECAUSE A FEW EX-MEMBERS OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP MET WITH ACCIDENTS IS NO REASON FOR EVERYONE TO PANIC.

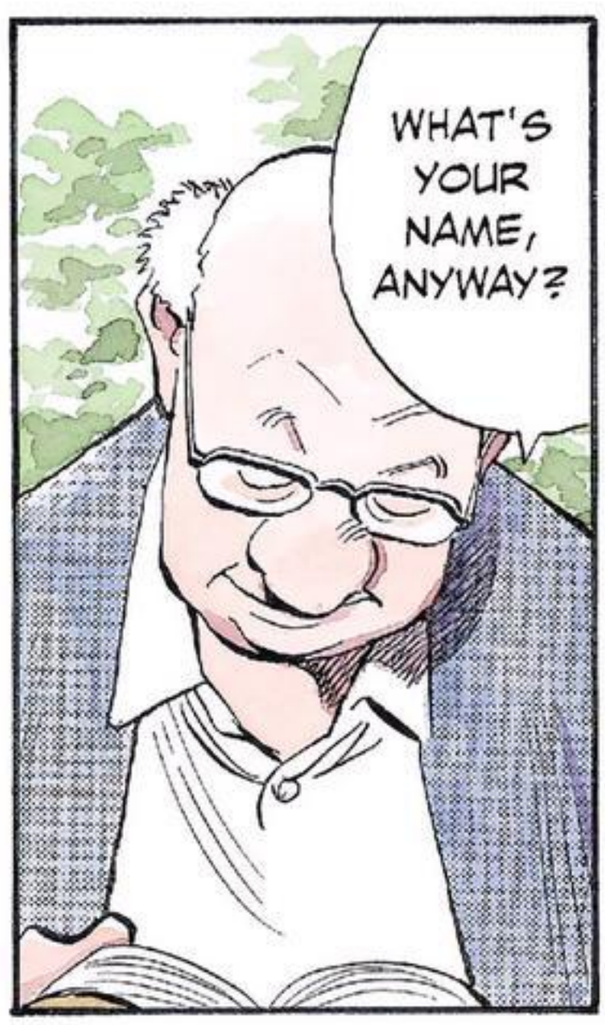
POLICE
I UNDER-STAND, SIR... BUT IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU...

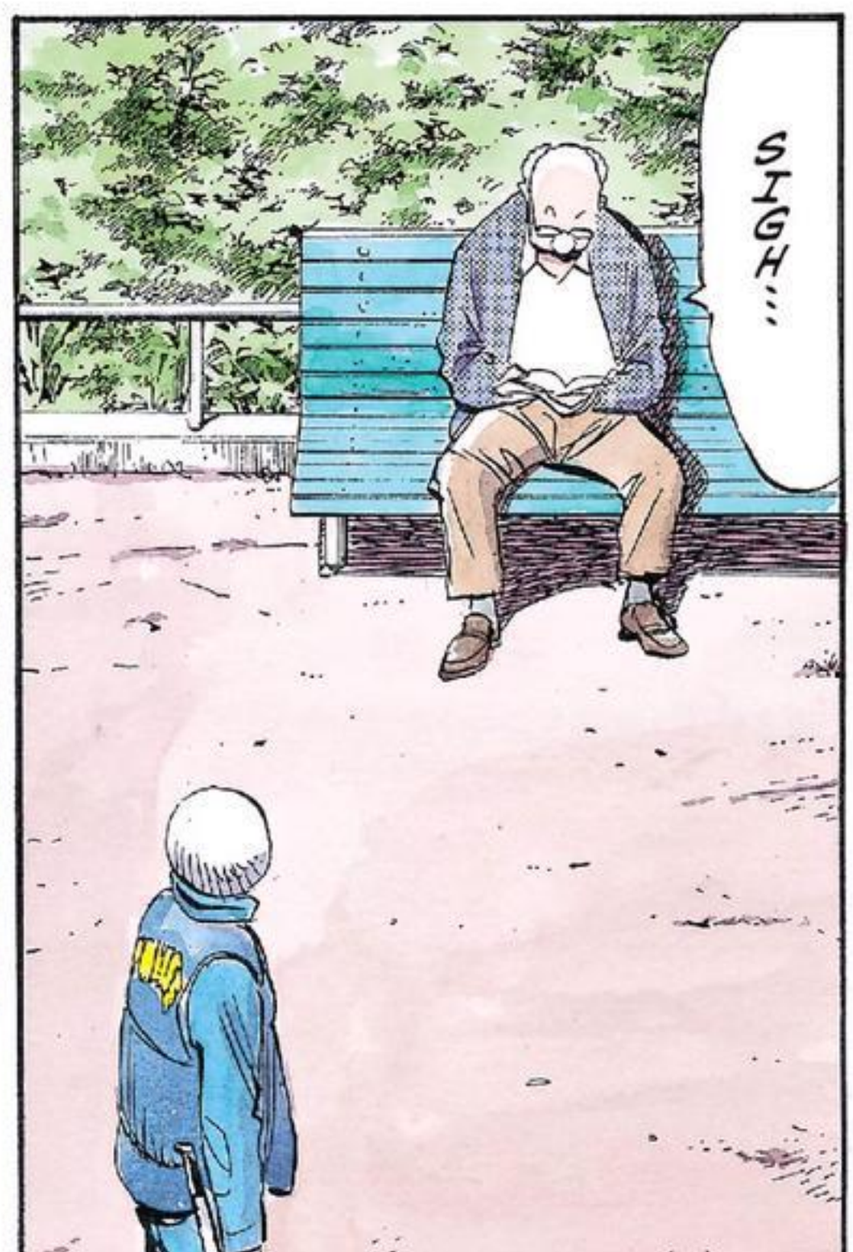

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SIR...

NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE.
OH, NEVER MIND...


AND MORE TO THE POINT, I RARELY GET A DAY OFF. HOW CAN I ENJOY IT WITH YOU STANDING THERE AT ATTENTION LIKE THAT?


PPB 4988 1327, SIR!
YESSIR!


WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?


SIGH...

SIR?

MAYBE YOU'LL BECOME HEAD OF YOUR DEPARTMENT...

WELL, WITH A MANLY NAME LIKE THAT, YOU SHOULD DO WELL!

YUJIRO?

YOUR NAME. YOU'VE GOT ONE, DON'T YOU?

NO, NOT YOUR MODEL NUMBER...

IT'S YUJIRO, SIR!

YESSIR!

WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU--?

WHAT'S THIS?

SCRUNCH

WHAT THE--?

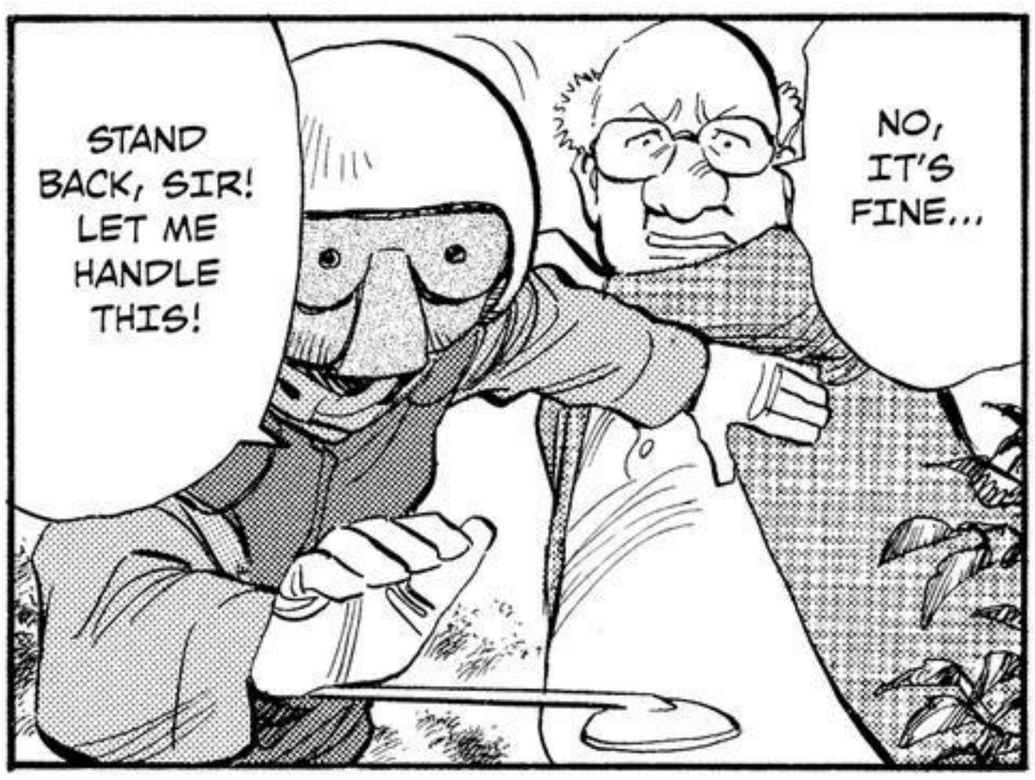
WHAT'S THE MATTER, PROFESSOR?

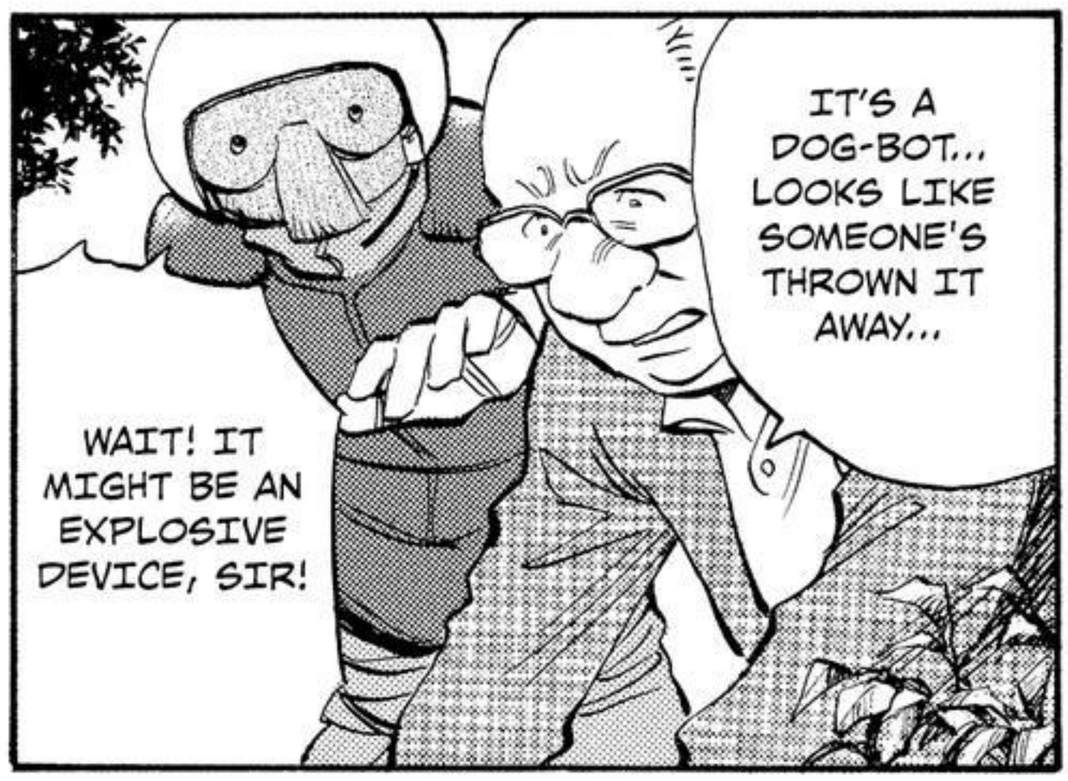
WHAT HAVE WE HERE...?

COME BACK, PROFESSOR! IT MIGHT BE *DANGEROUS*!

BZZT

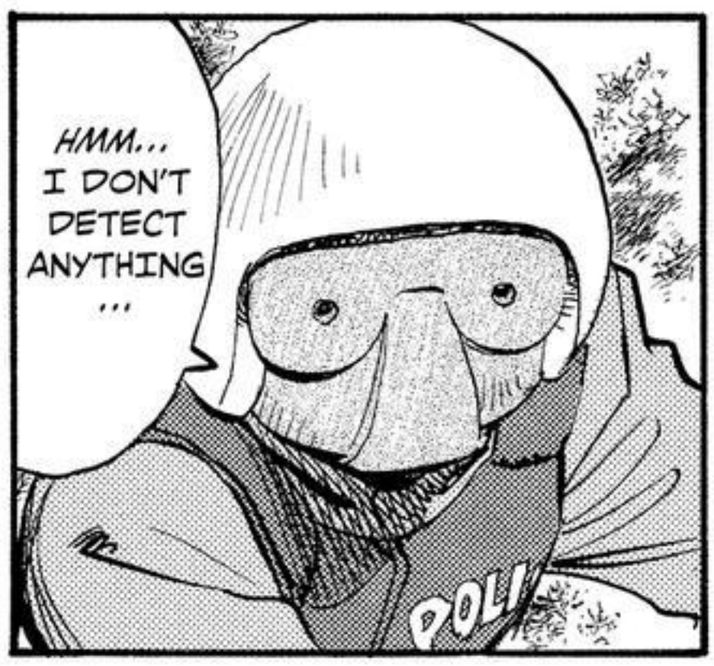
BZZT

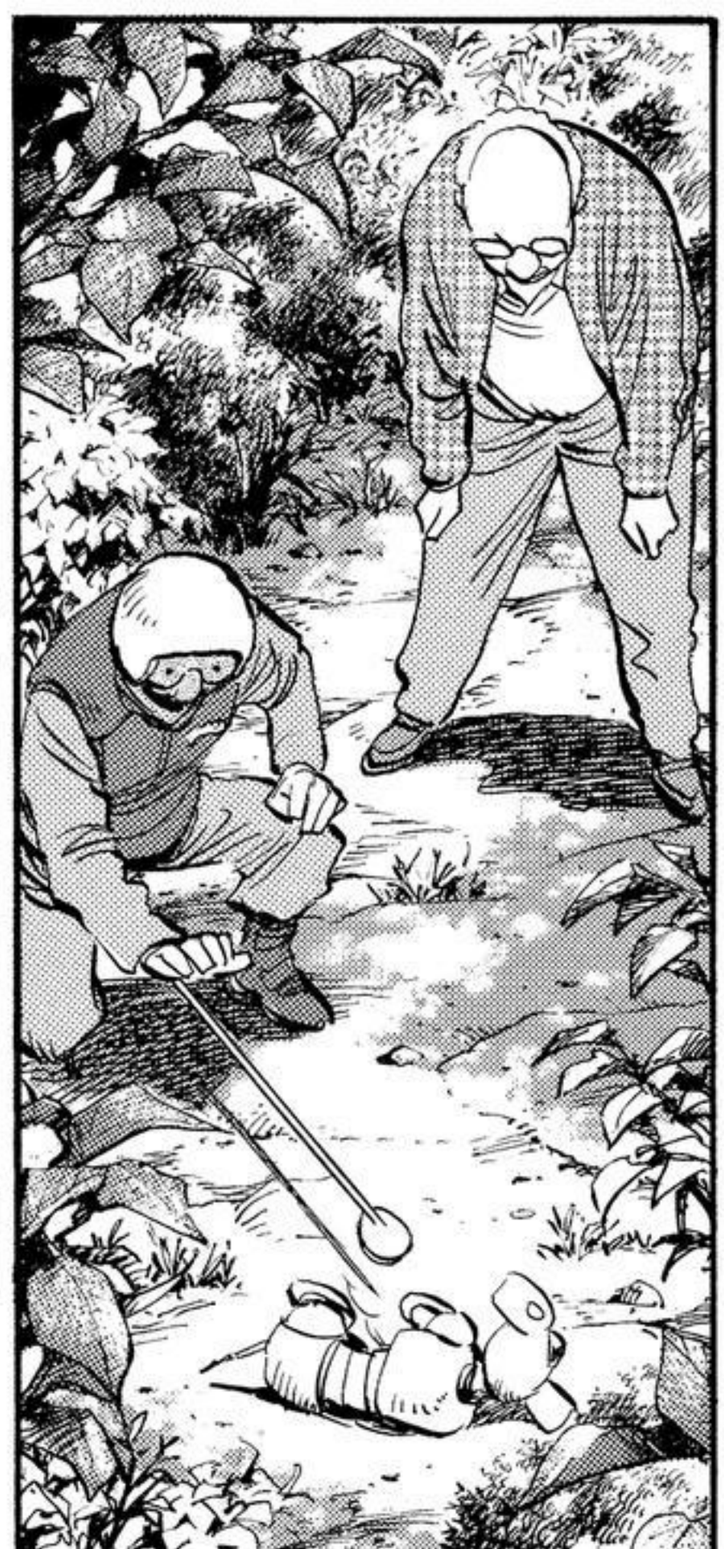

STAND BACK, SIR! LET ME HANDLE THIS!
NO, IT'S FINE...

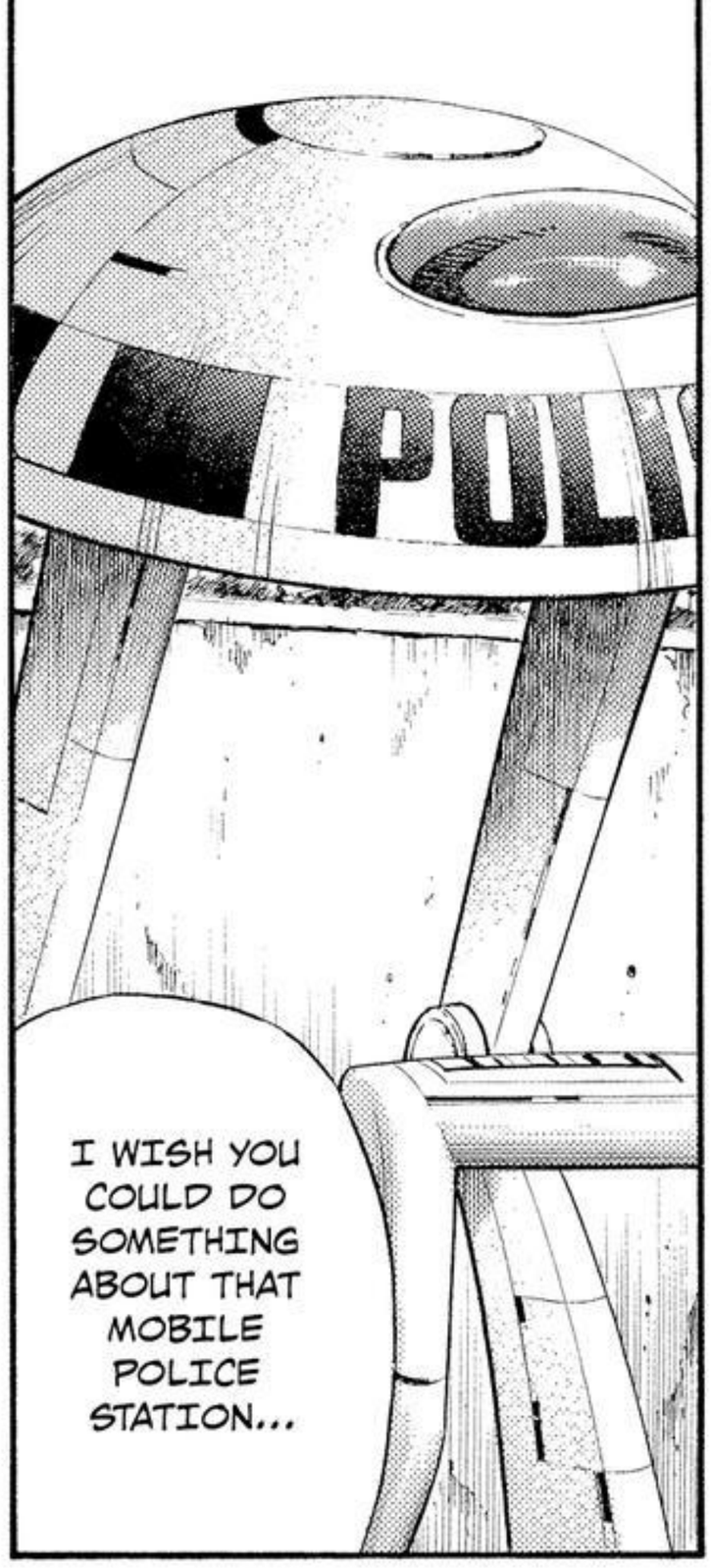

IT'S A DOG-BOT... LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S THROWN IT AWAY...
WAIT! IT MIGHT BE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE, SIR!

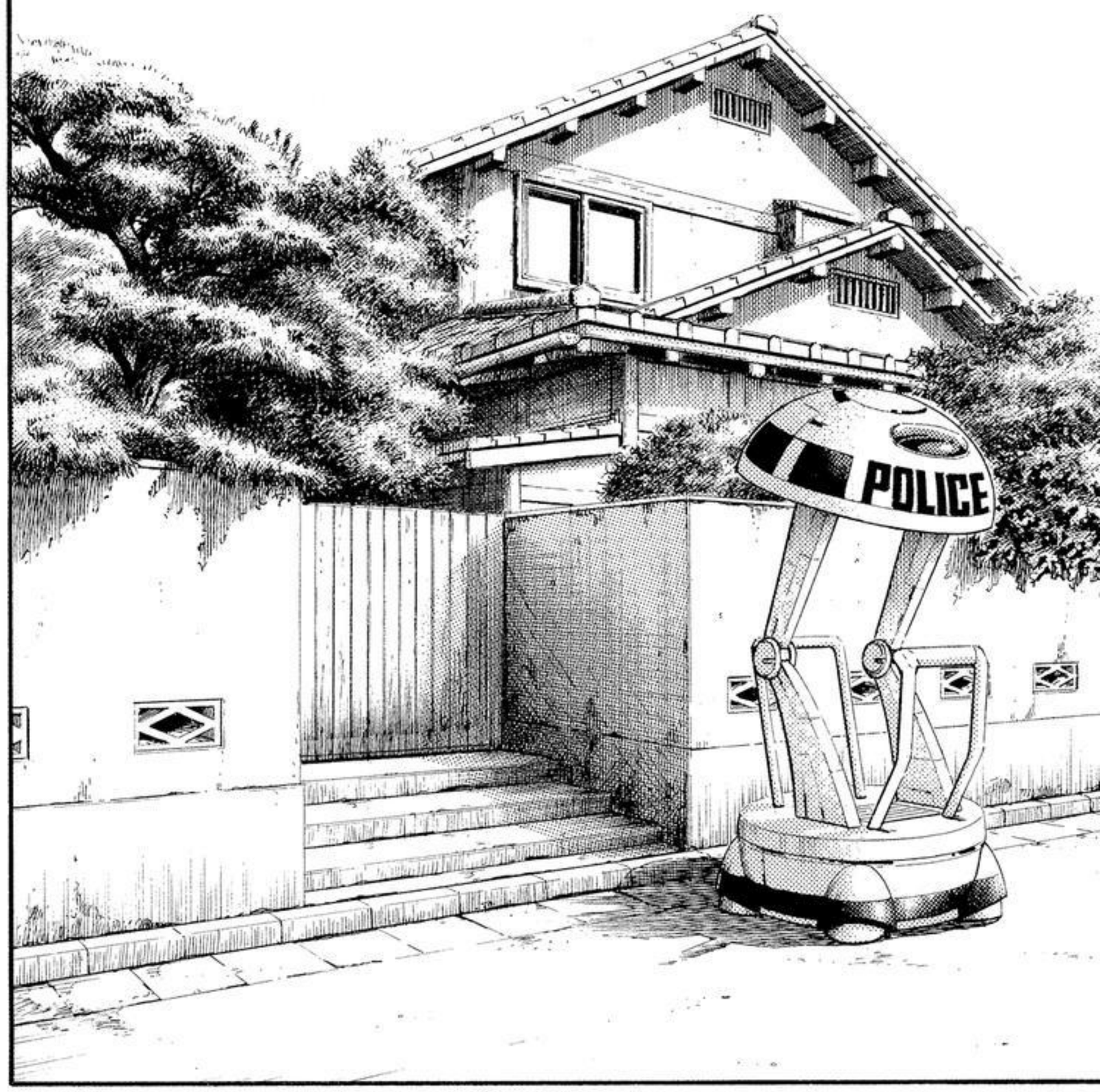
...
NOTHING DANGEROUS, RIGHT? I'M TAKING THIS LITTLE FELLA HOME WITH ME, YUJIRO.
POLICE

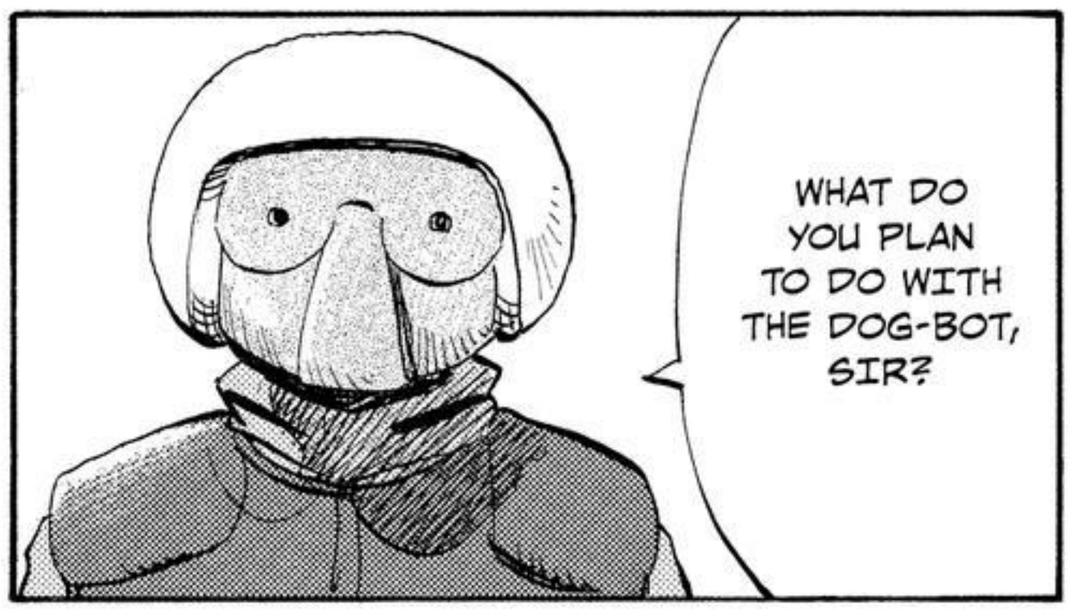
POOR THING'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.


HMM... I DON'T DETECT ANYTHING ...




POLI
I WISH YOU COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MOBILE POLICE STATION...

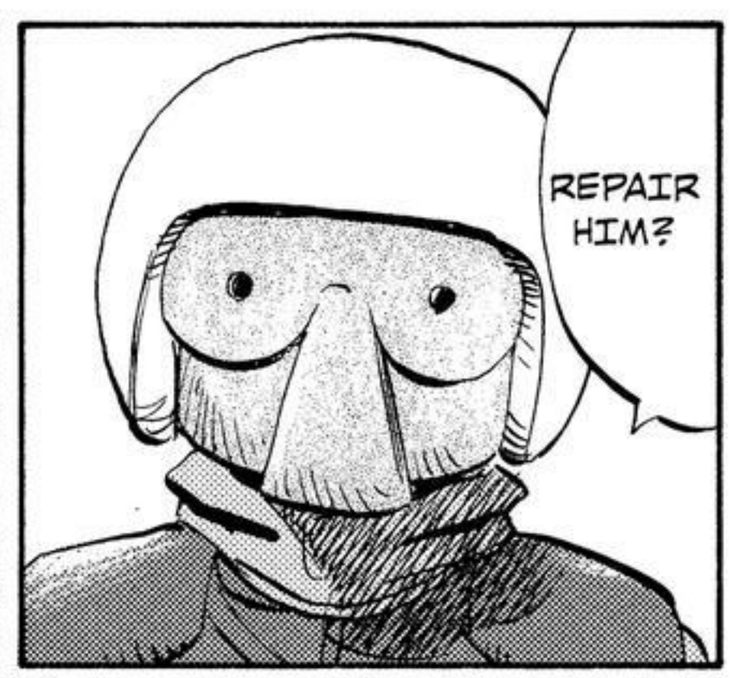

POLICE

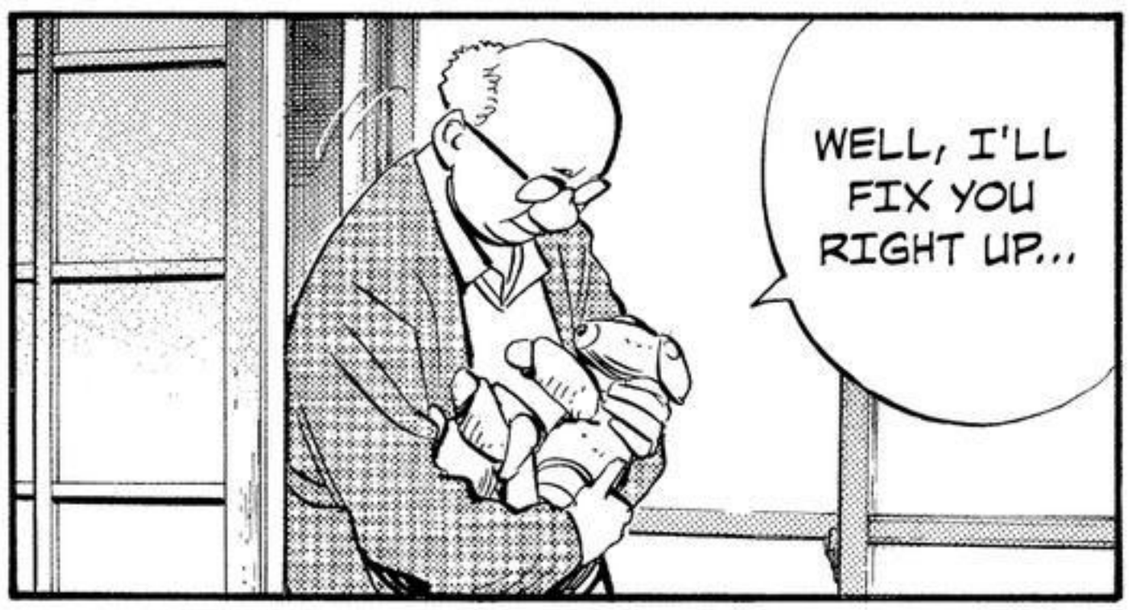

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THE DOG-BOT, SIR?

I JUST KNOW MY NEIGHBORS ARE GOING TO COMPLAIN.

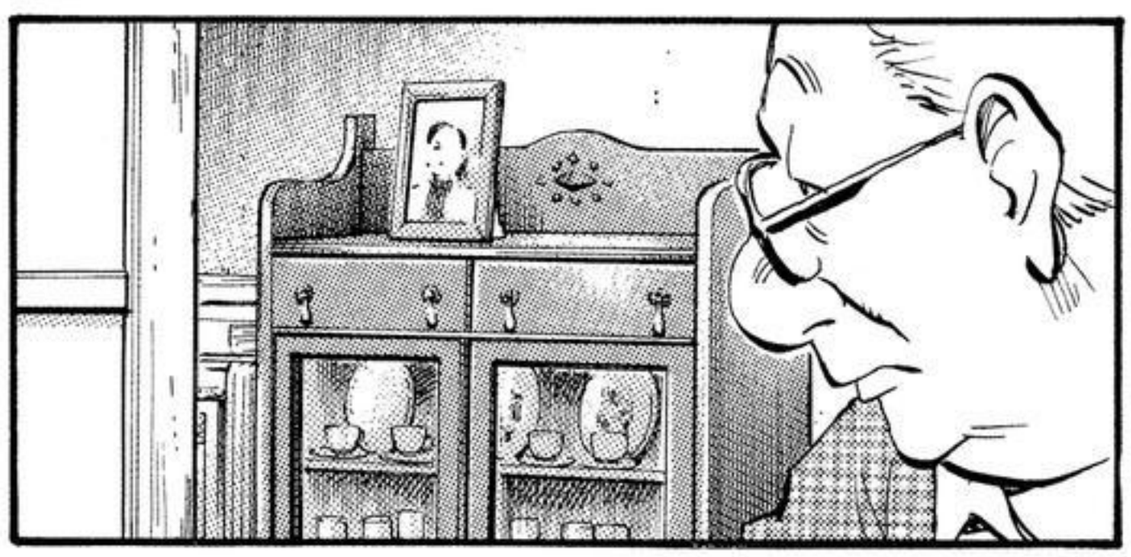
REPAIR HIM, OF COURSE.

I'M THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, YOU KNOW...


REPAIR HIM?

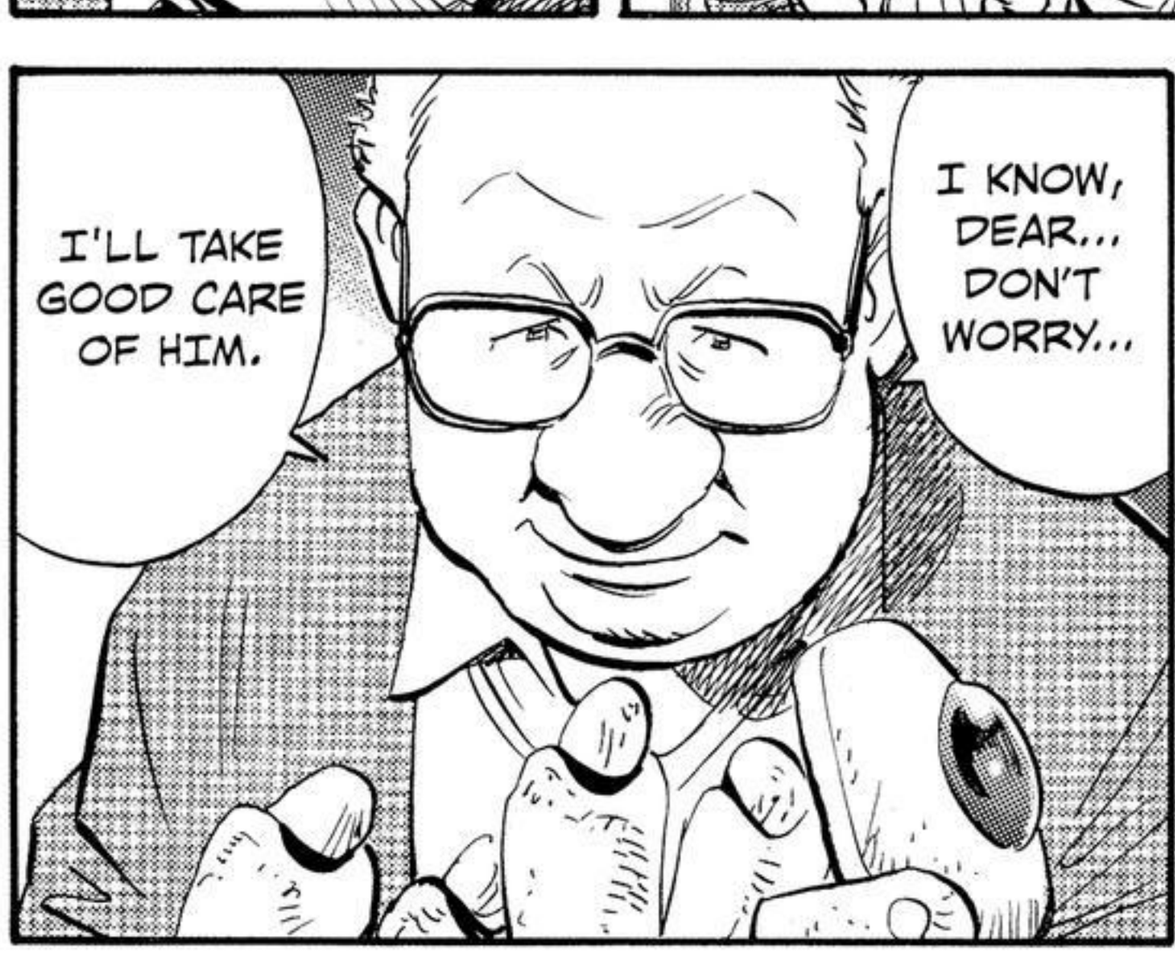

WELL, I'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP...

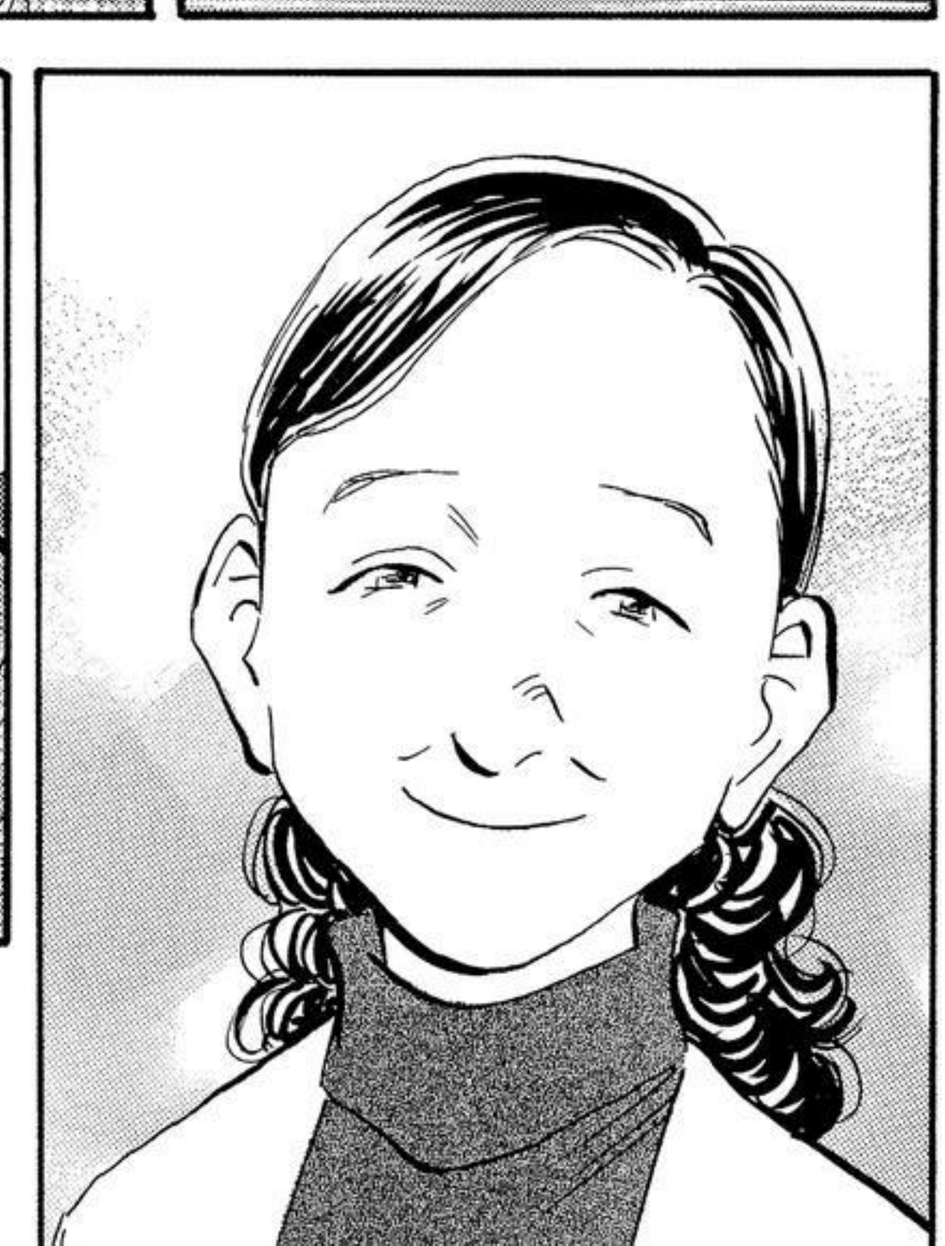
YOU'RE AN OLD MODEL, AREN'T YOU?

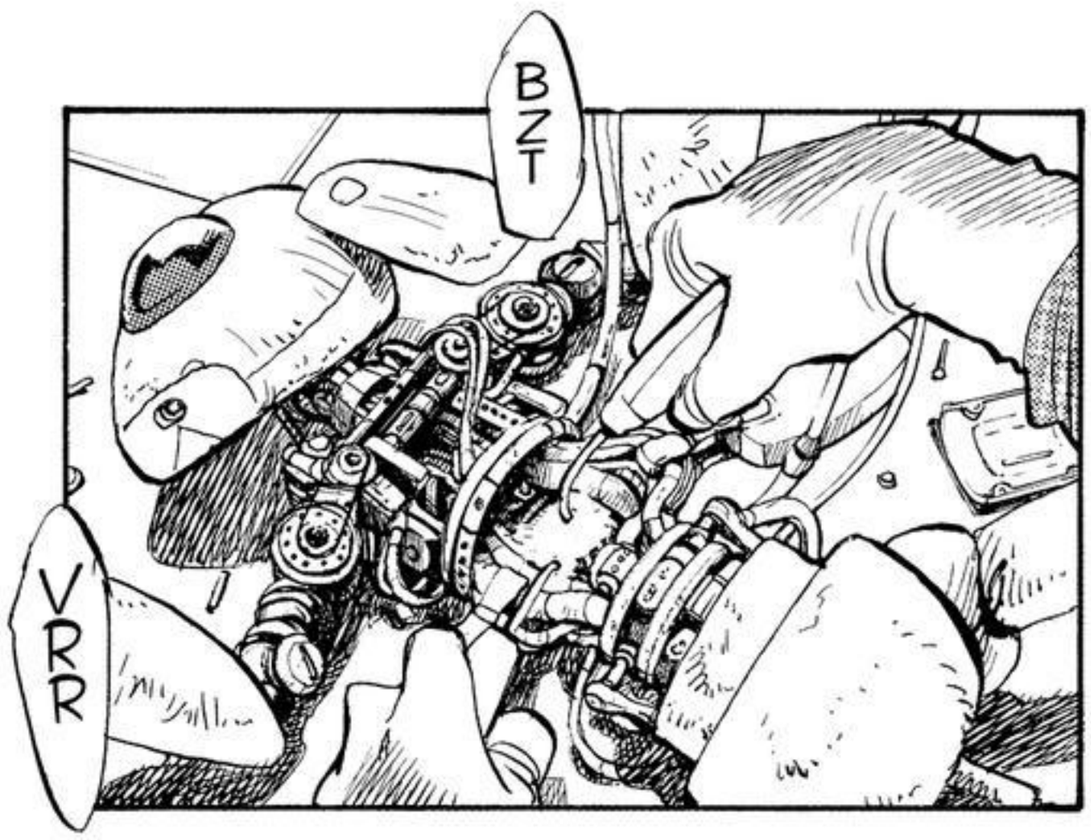


REMEMBER HOW YOU CRIED WHEN SHIRO DIED...

HE LOOKS JUST LIKE OUR OLD DOG SHIRO, DOESN'T HE?
LOOK, DEAR...

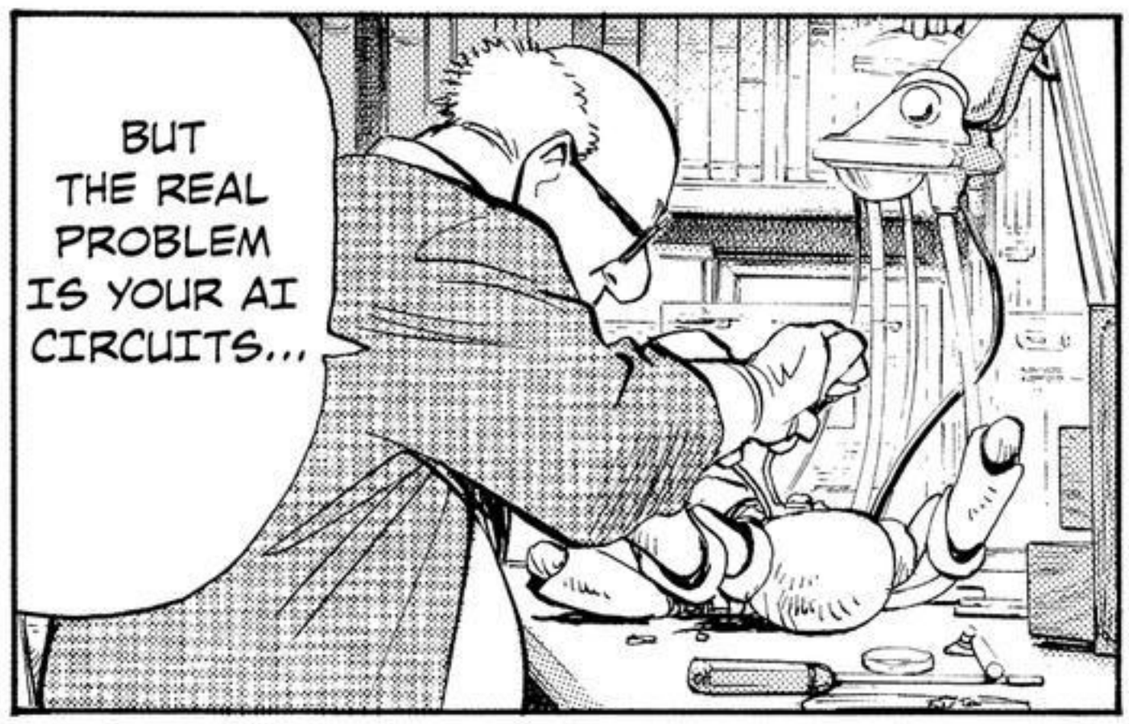

I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
I KNOW, DEAR... DON'T WORRY...

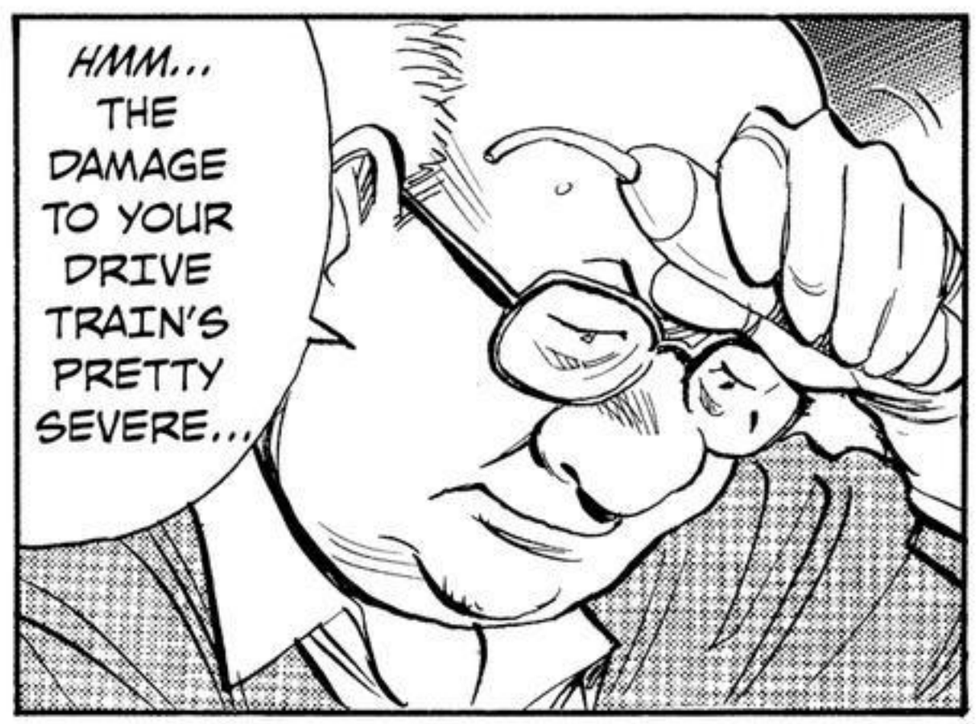



BZT
VRR

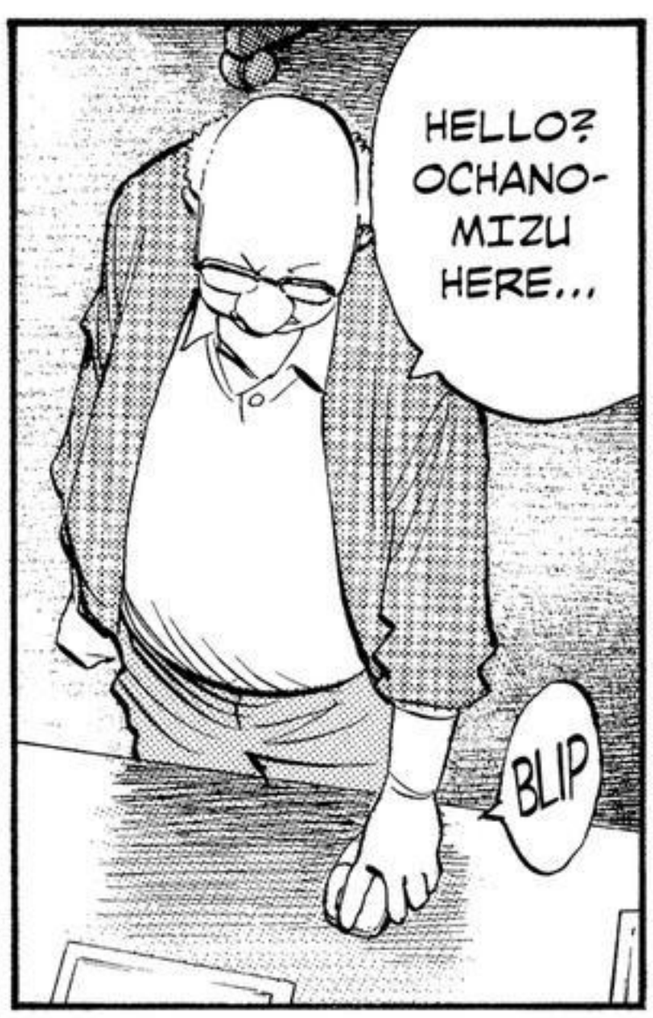
YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE...
HANG IN THERE.

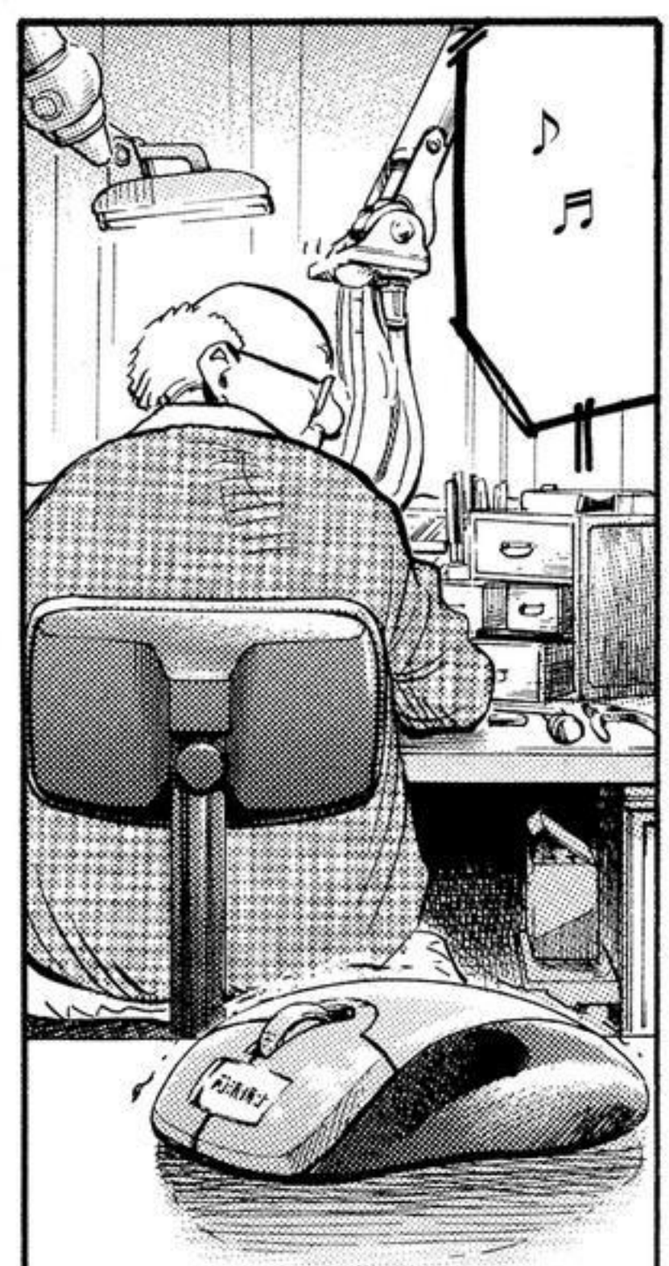
BEEP
BEEP

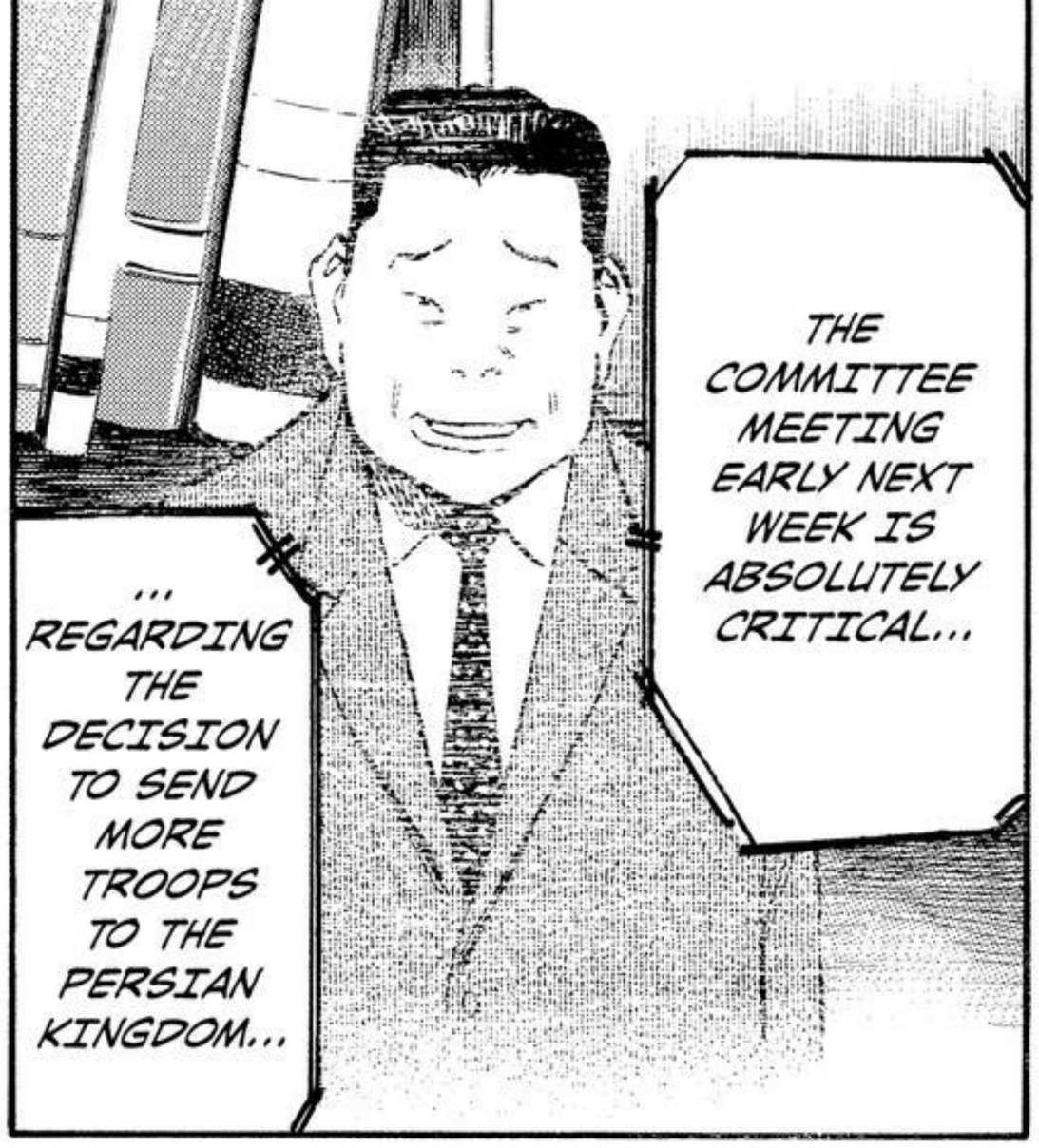

BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS YOUR AI CIRCUITS...


HMM... THE DAMAGE TO YOUR DRIVE TRAIN'S PRETTY SEVERE...

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU ON YOUR DAY OFF...
EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR ...


HELLO? OCHANO-MIZU HERE...
BLIP


♪
♬


THE COMMITTEE MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL...
...REGARDING THE DECISION TO SEND MORE TROOPS TO THE PERSIAN KINGDOM...

SIR... SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO OFTEN...
OH... THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AGAIN...

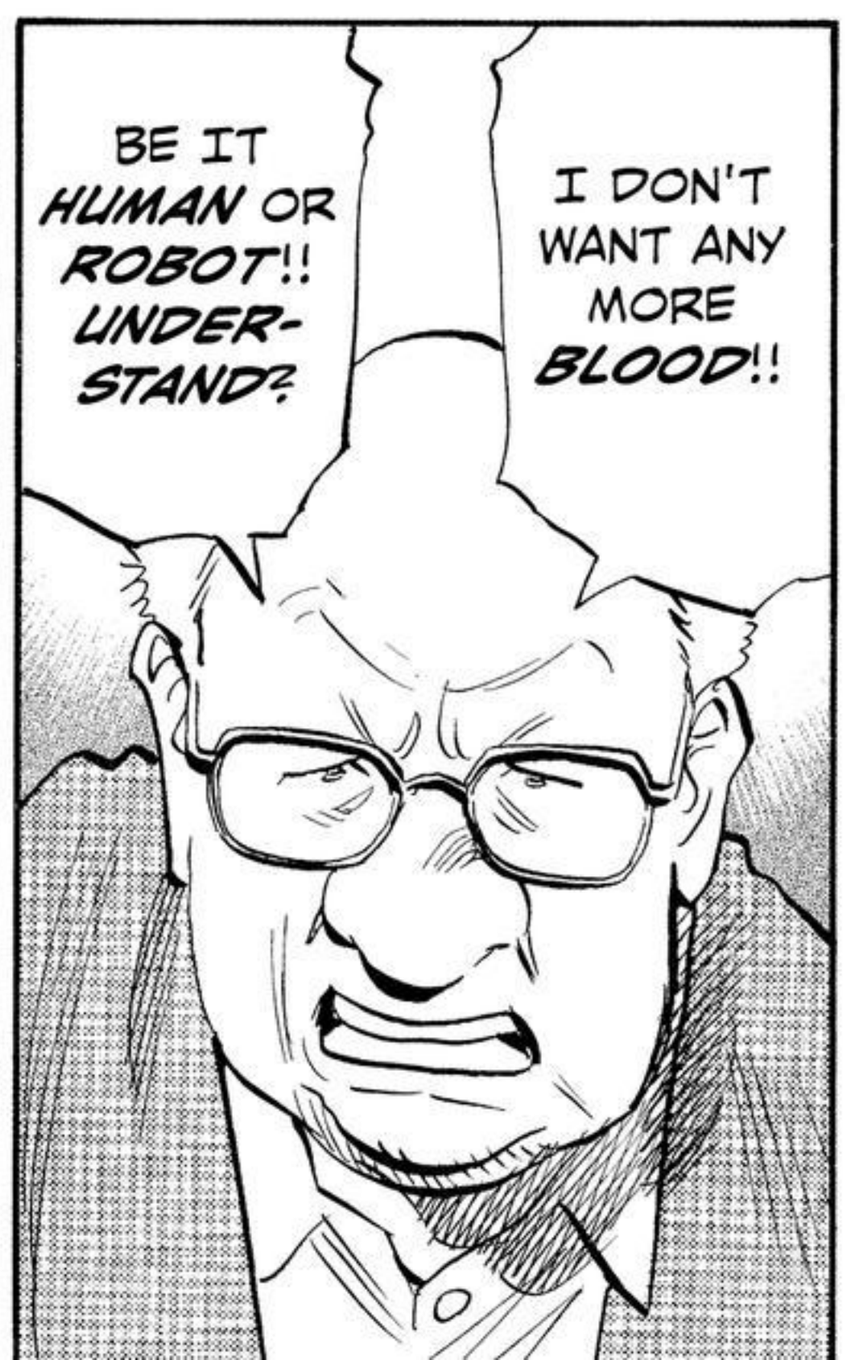
BUT PROFES-SOR...
LISTEN... I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK!

HMPH...

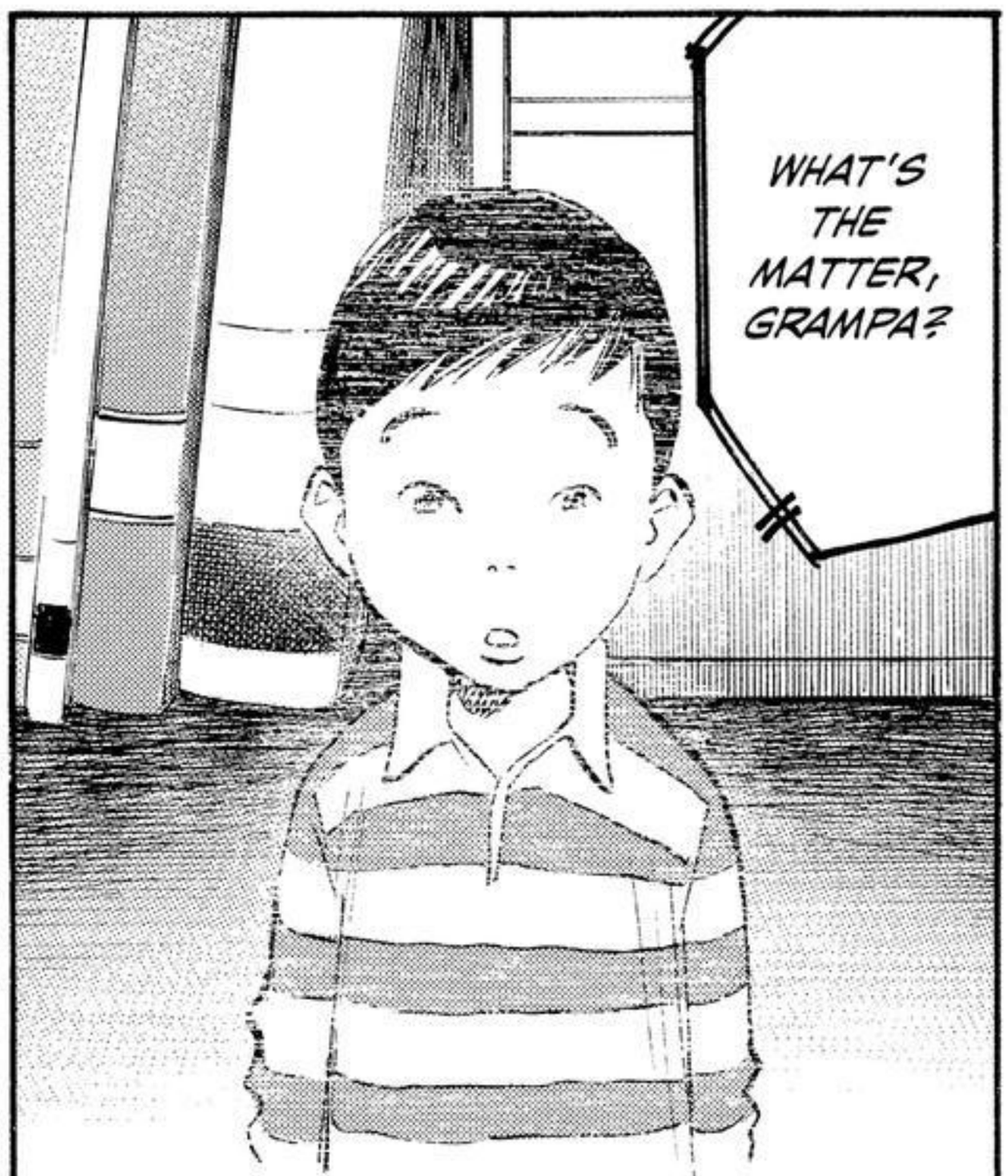
WE NEED YOUR PERMISSION AS HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, SIR, TO APPROVE THE INCREASE...

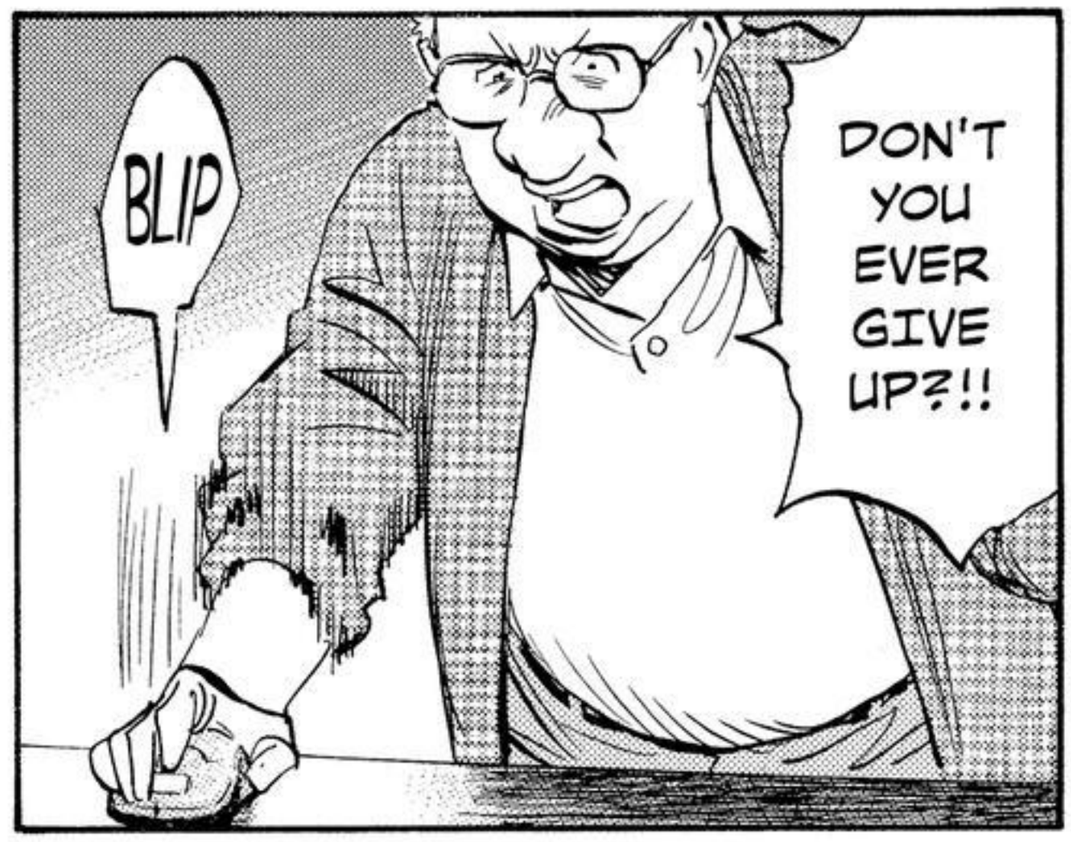
...!!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANY-THING ?!!

B-BUT SIR... THE UNITED STATES OF THRACIA IS REQUESTING THAT--


BE IT HUMAN OR ROBOT!! UNDER-STAND?
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE BLOOD!!

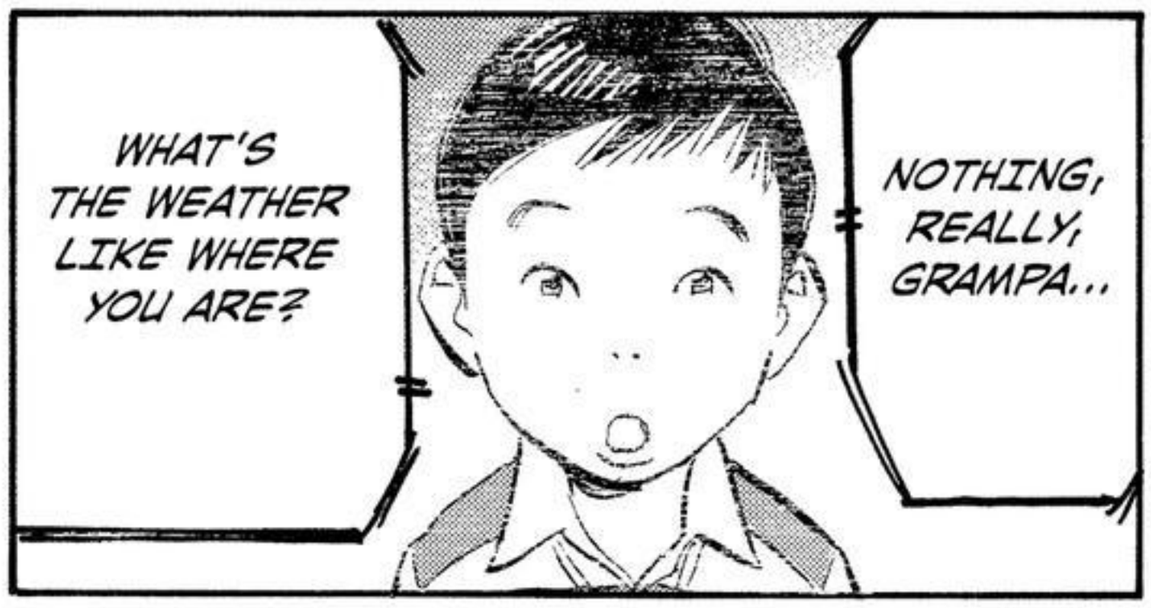
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE DOES NOT BUILD ROBOTS TO BECOME SOLDIERS!! UNDERSTAND?!

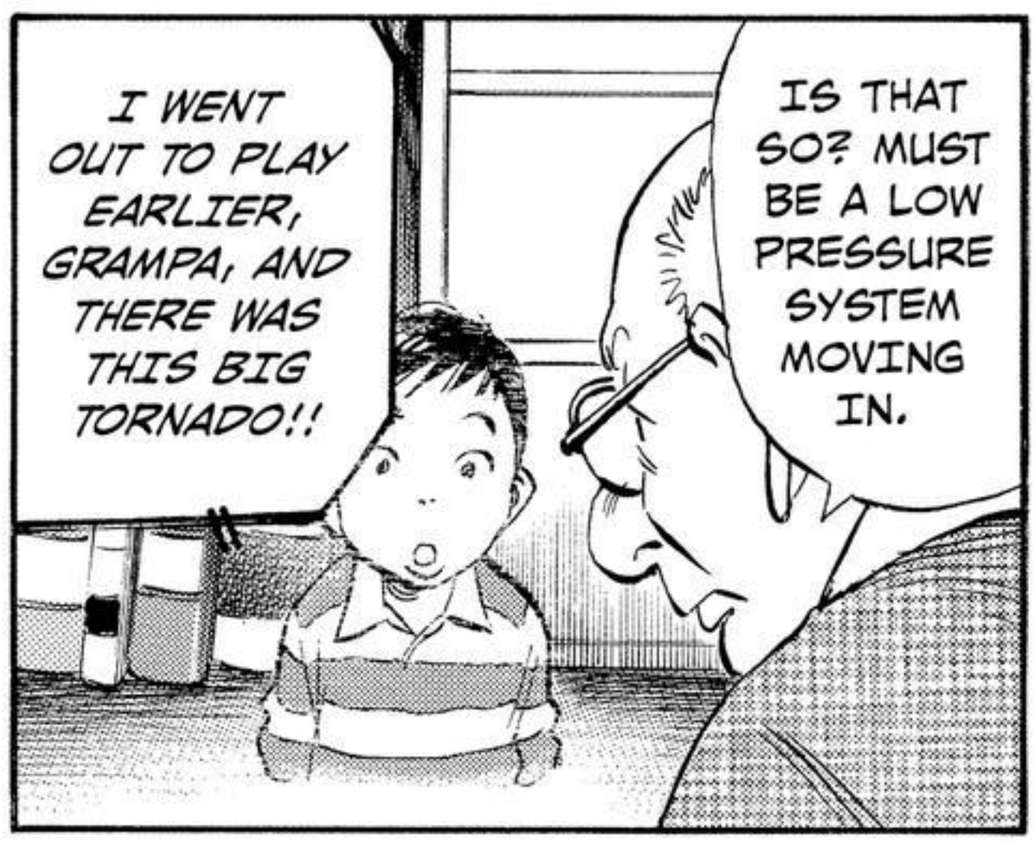


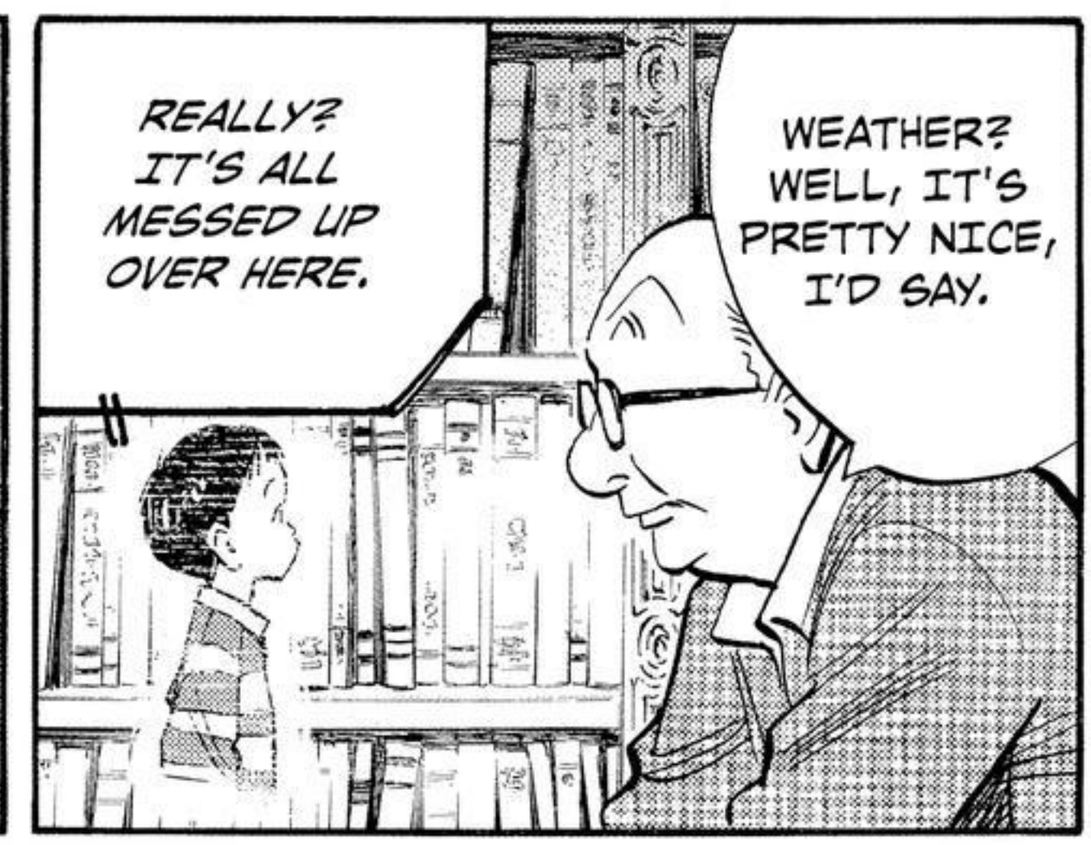


WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
NO... NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

IF YOU'RE BUSY, I CAN CALL BACK, GRAMPA.
OH...UH... JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU, TAKASHI... HEH HEH...


WHAT'S THE WEATHER LIKE WHERE YOU ARE?
NOTHING, REALLY, GRAMPA...


I WENT OUT TO PLAY EARLIER, GRAMPA, AND THERE WAS THIS BIG TORNADO!!
IS THAT SO? MUST BE A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM MOVING IN.


REALLY? IT'S ALL MESSED UP OVER HERE.
WEATHER? WELL, IT'S PRETTY NICE, I'D SAY.

I DID, GRAMPA. BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO DO, SO I CALLED YOU.
BE CAREFUL, TAKASHI. RUN INSIDE IF YOU SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, OKAY?

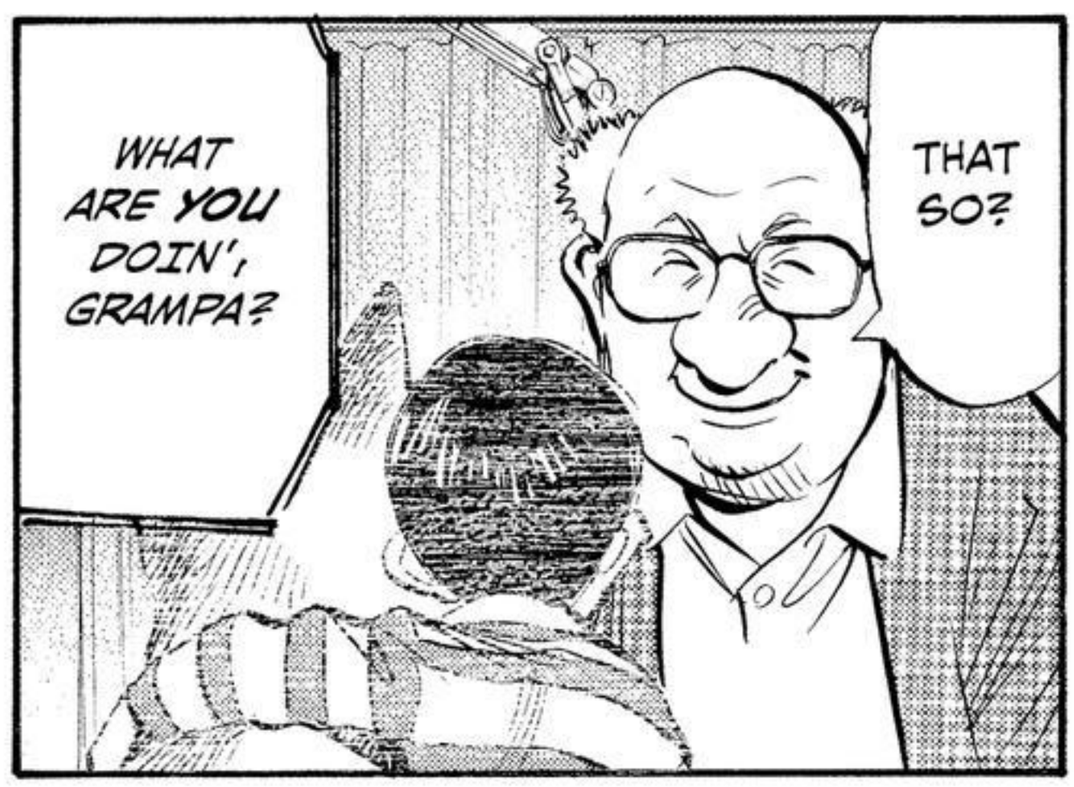
TORNADO ...?

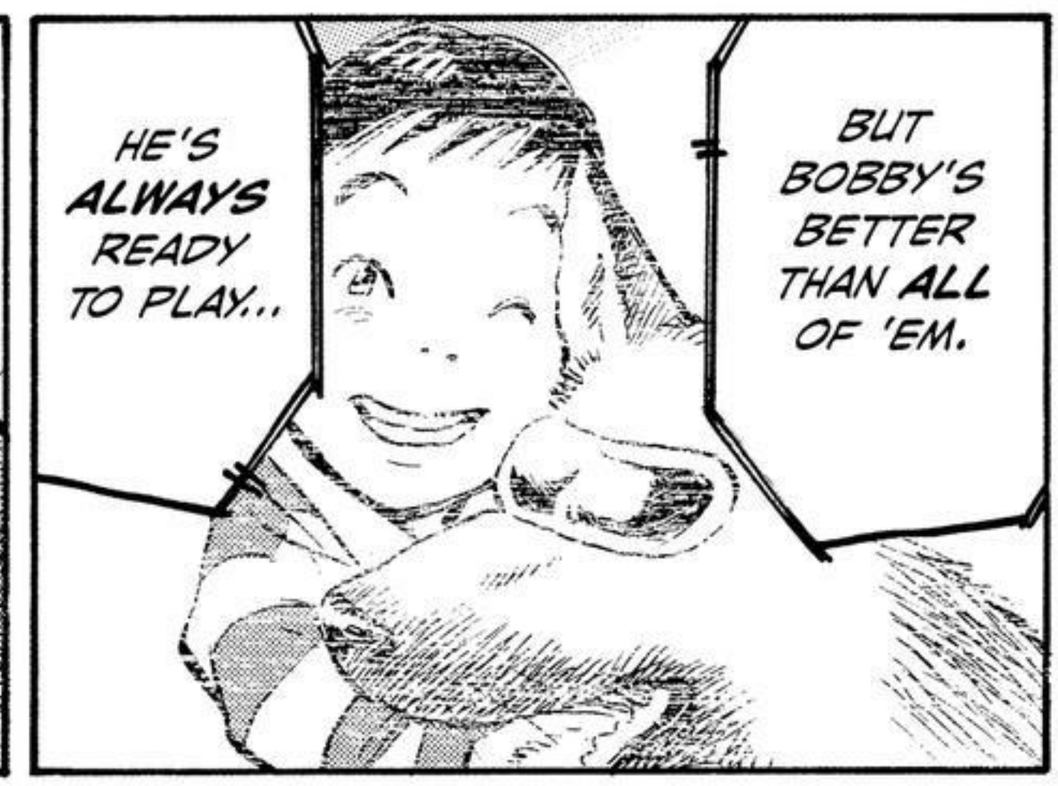
MOM SAW IT TOO! FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE!!
YEAH. I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE! IT WAS HUGE!!

AND THEY'RE SELLING NEWER DOG-BOTS NOW...
YOU GAVE HIM TO ME TWO YEARS AGO...
YOU BET!

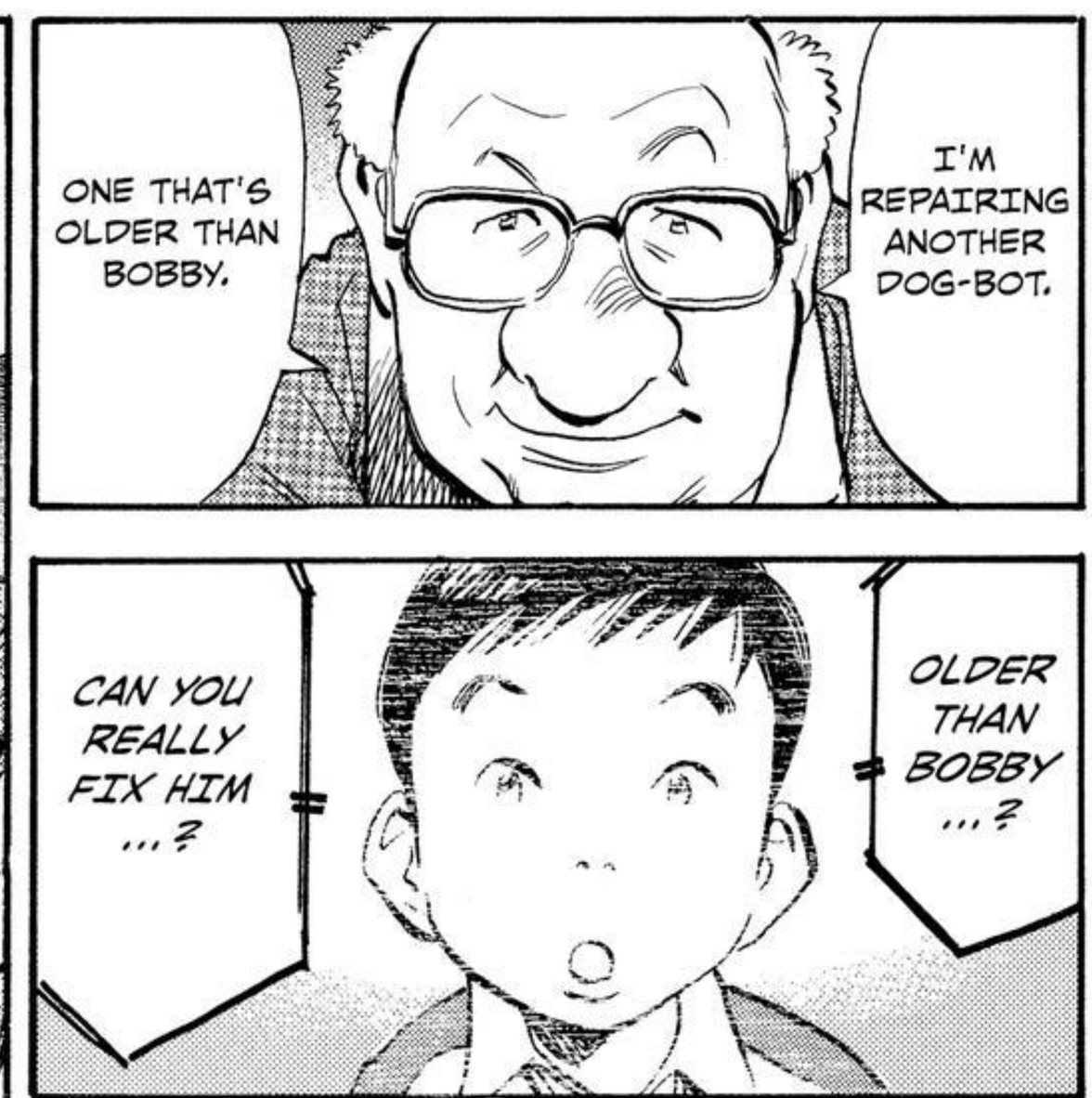
YOU TWO GETTING ALONG OKAY?

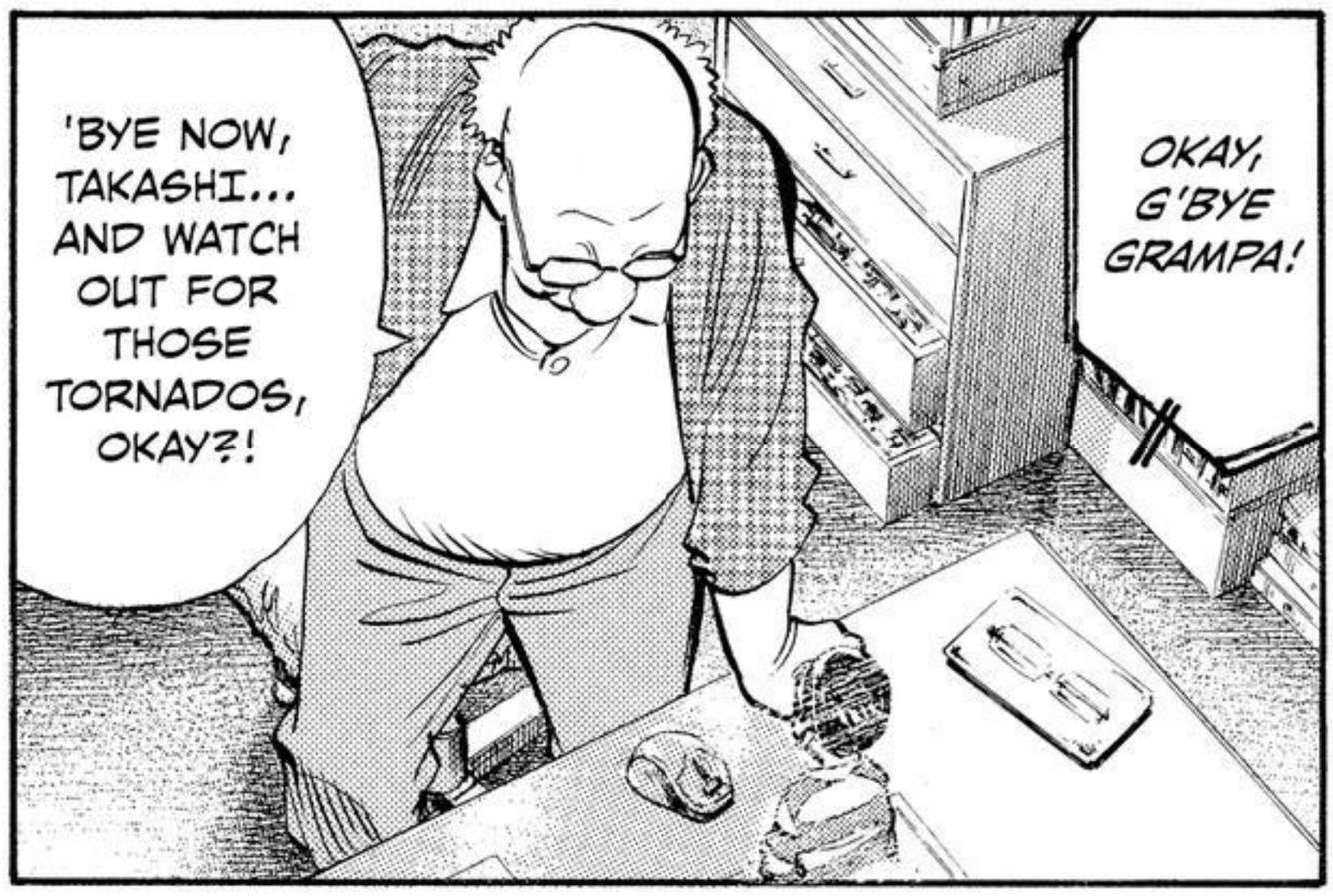
I'M PLAYING WITH BOBBY.


WHAT ARE YOU DOIN', GRAMPA?
THAT SO?

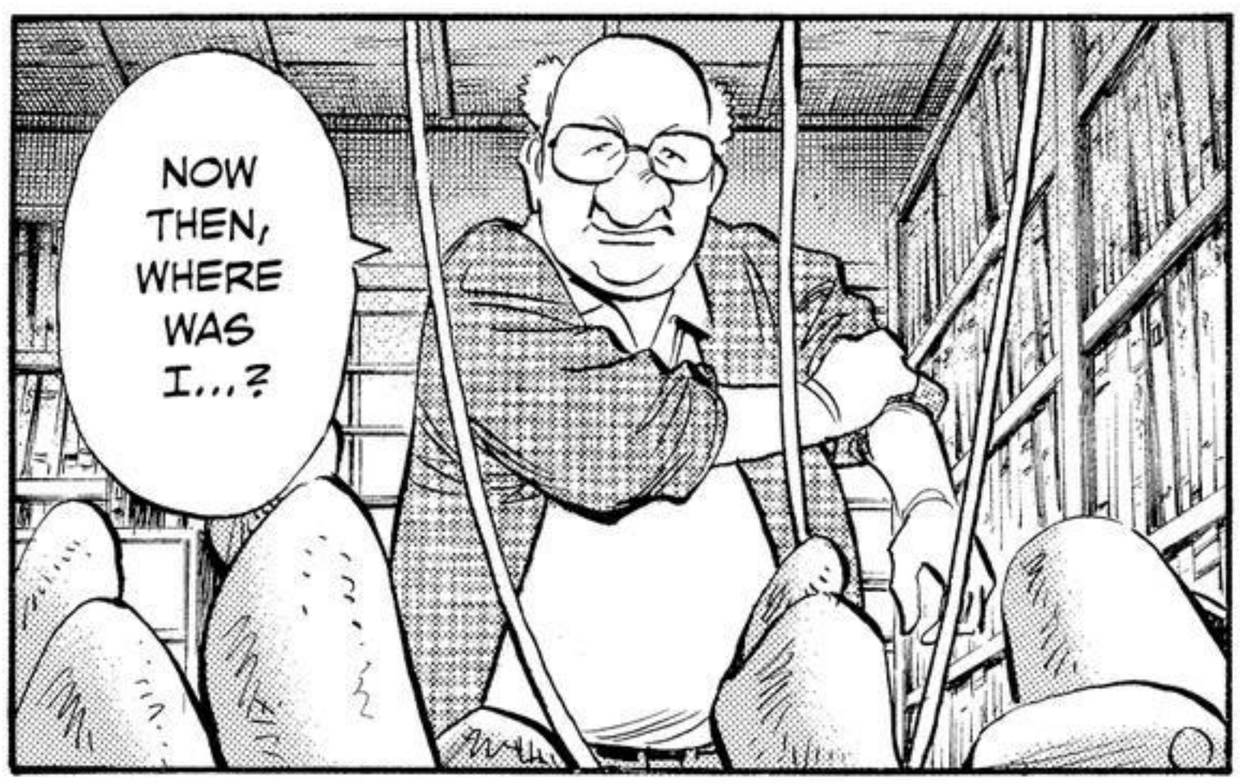

HE'S ALWAYS READY TO PLAY...
BUT BOBBY'S BETTER THAN ALL OF 'EM.

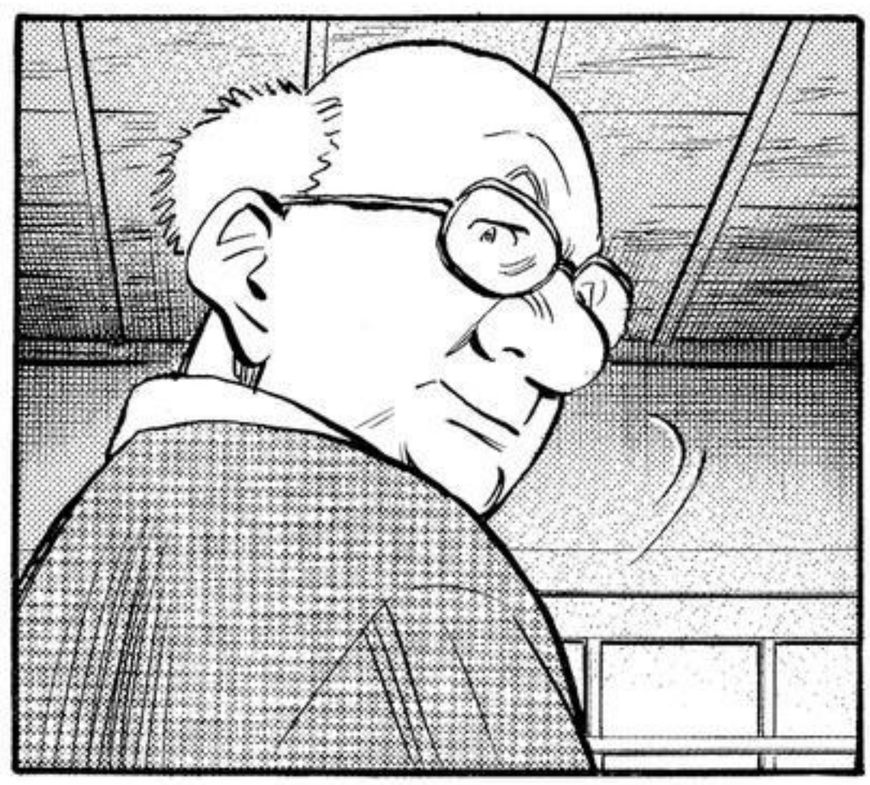
GRAMPA, YOU CAN FIX ANYTHING!
WE'LL SEE...

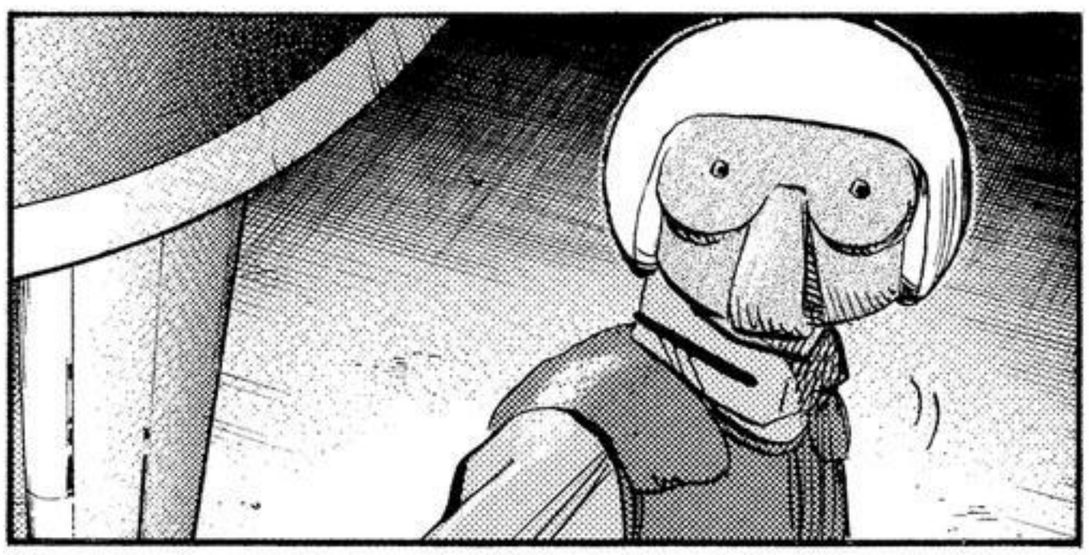

ONE THAT'S OLDER THAN BOBBY.
I'M REPAIRING ANOTHER DOG-BOT.
CAN YOU REALLY FIX HIM ...?
OLDER THAN BOBBY ...?

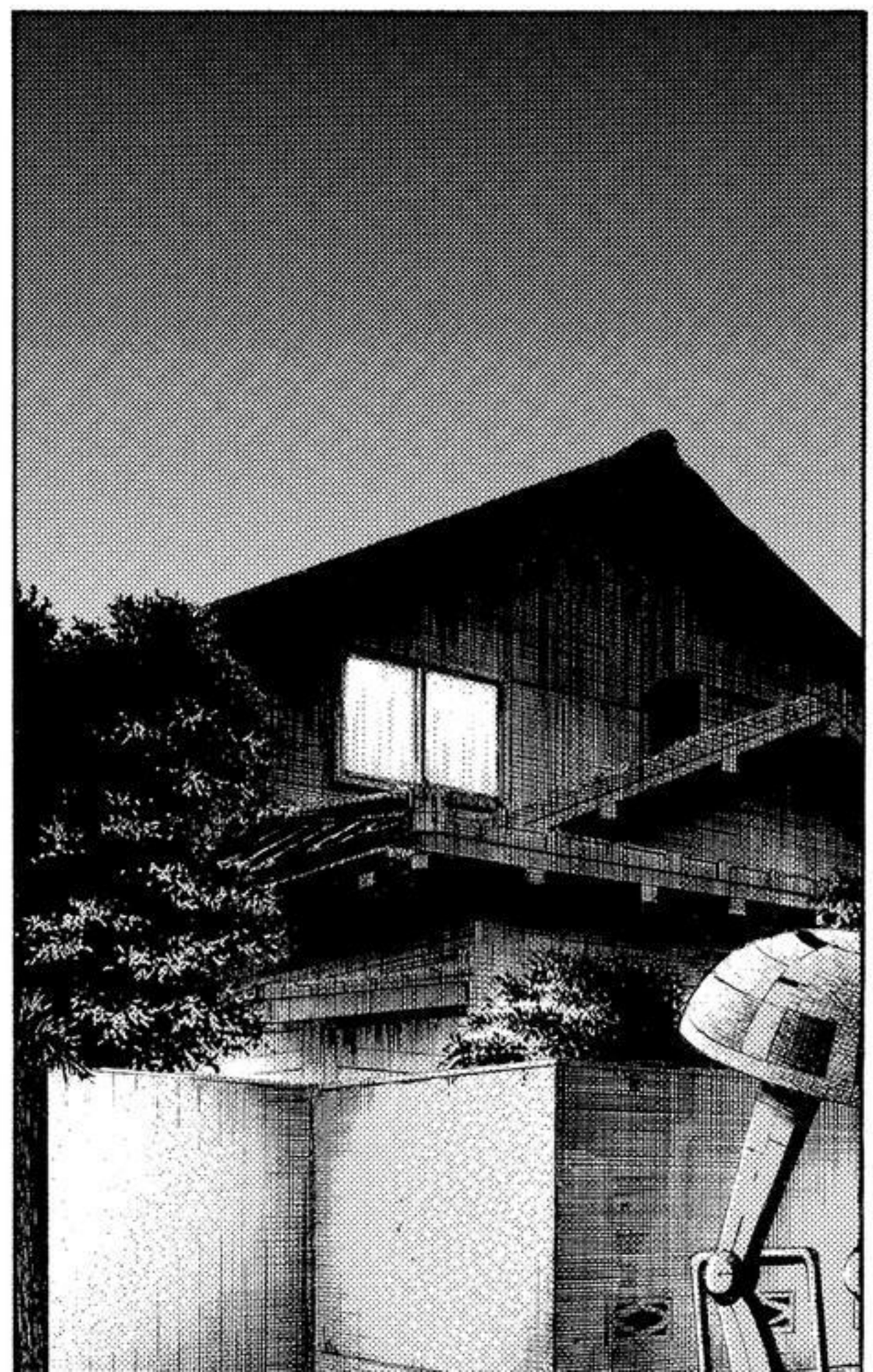

'BYE NOW, TAKASHI... AND WATCH OUT FOR THOSE TORNADOS, OKAY?!
OKAY, G'BYE GRAMPA!

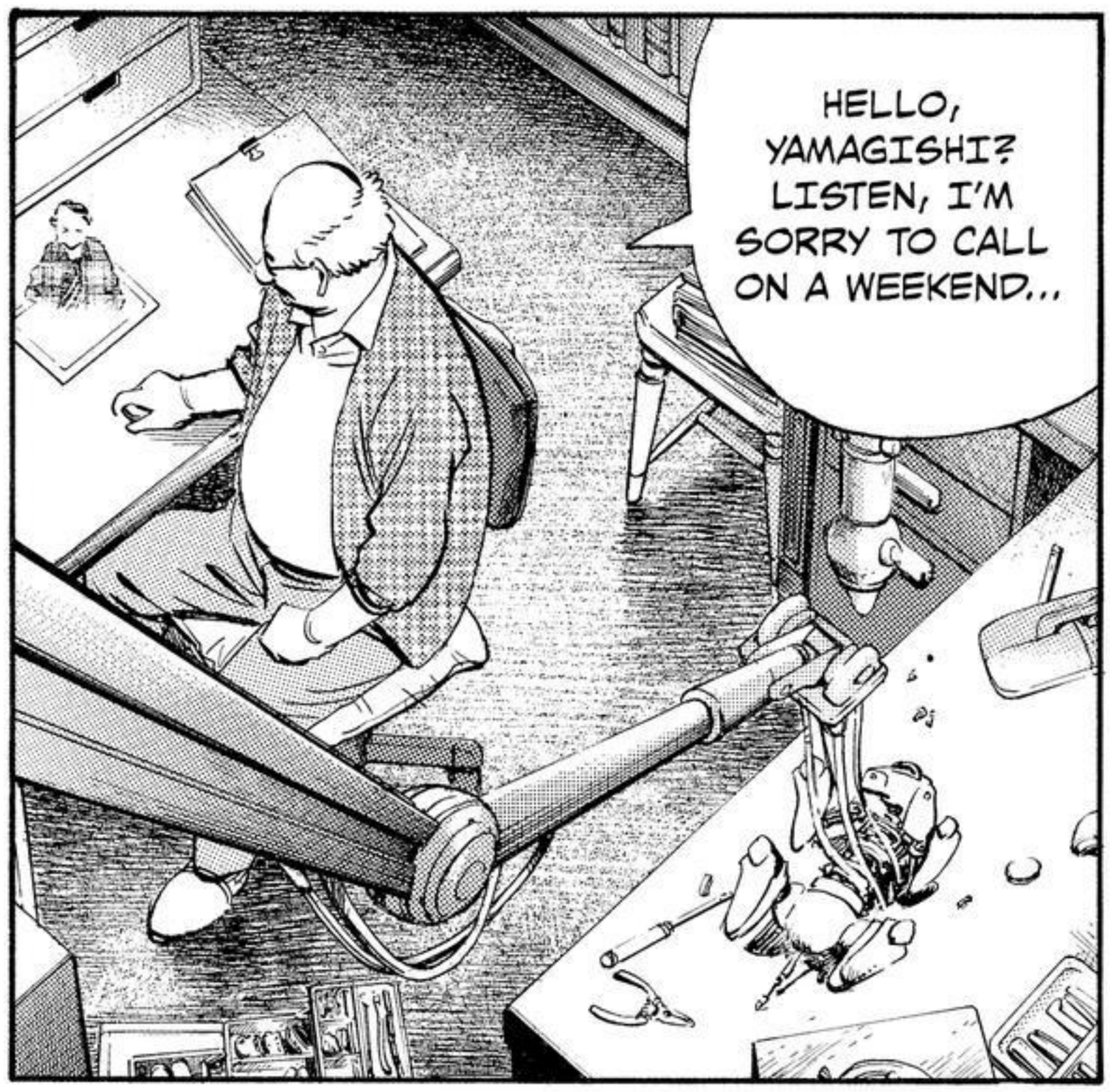
WELL, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

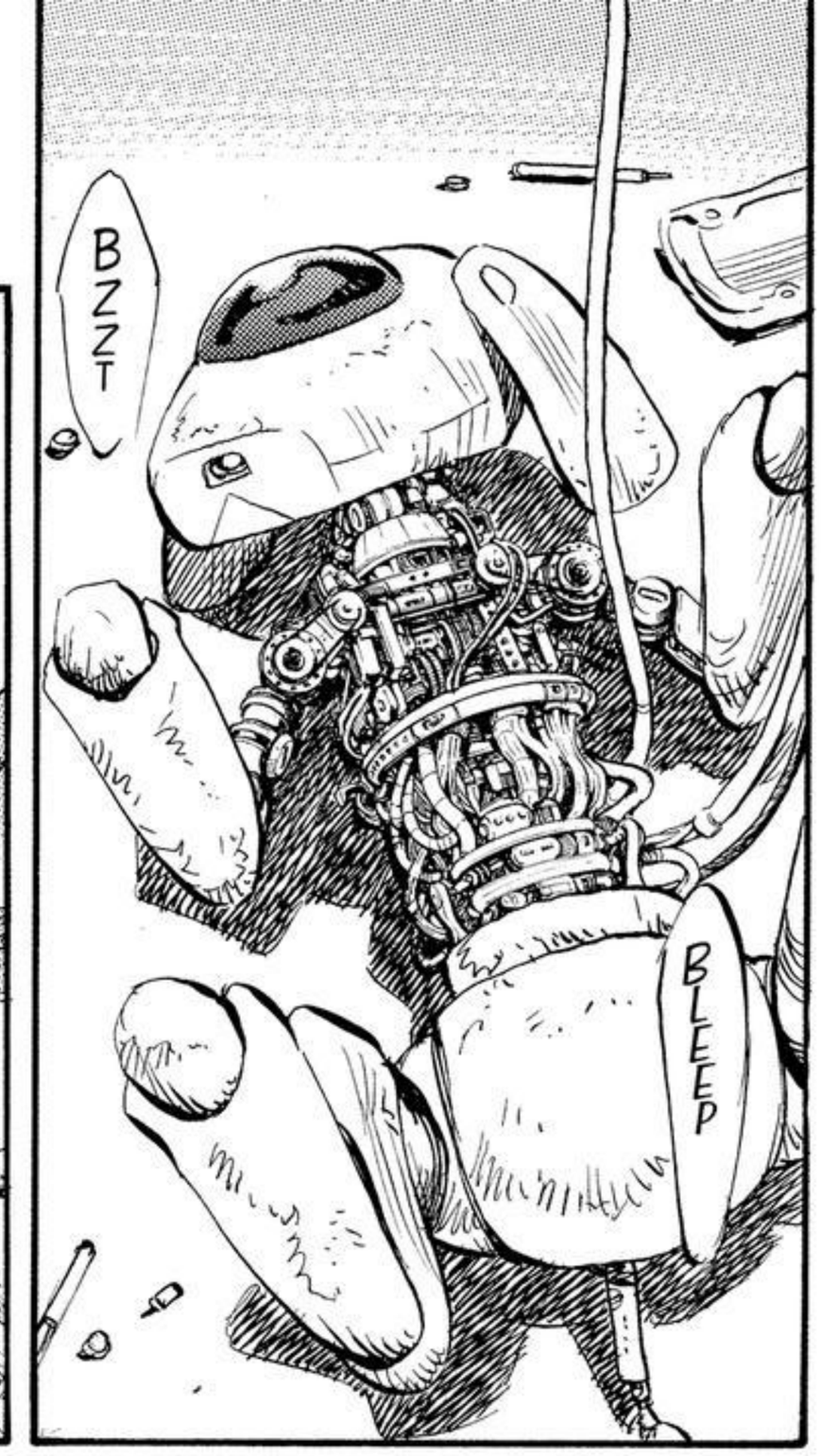

NOW THEN, WHERE WAS I...?

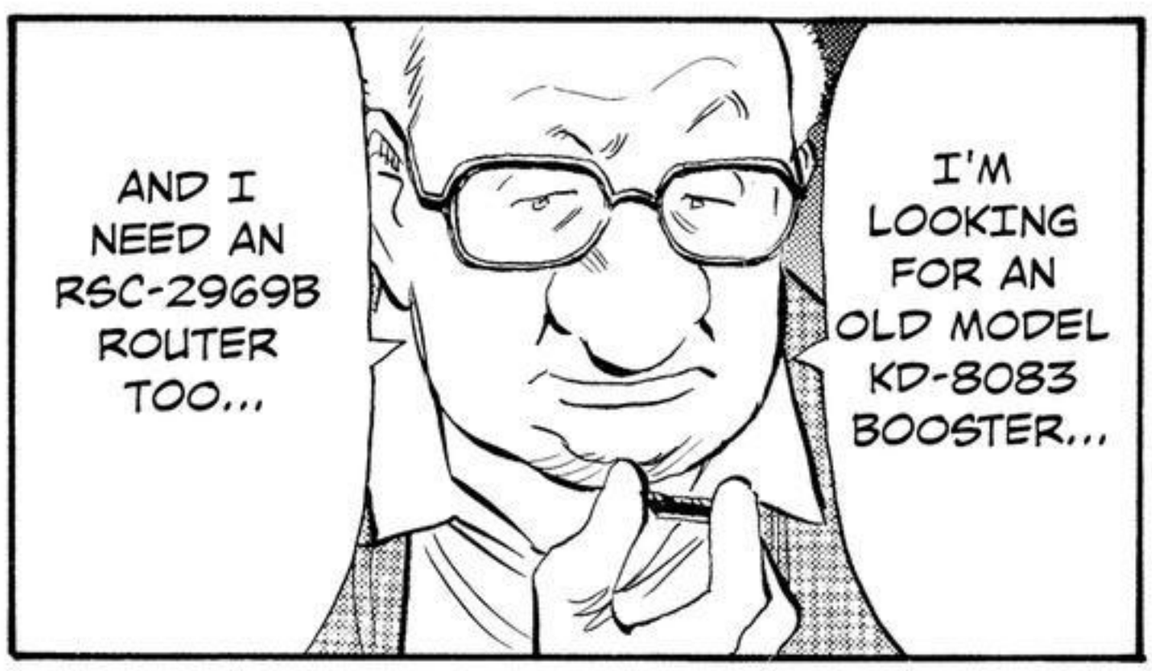







HELLO, YAMAGISHI? LISTEN, I'M SORRY TO CALL ON A WEEKEND...


BZZT
BLEEEP


AND I NEED AN RSC-2969B ROUTER TOO...
I'M LOOKING FOR AN OLD MODEL KD-8083 BOOSTER...

NO PROBLEM, PROFESSOR. WHAT'S UP?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE DISCONTINUED THOSE PARTS.
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT...

I'VE ALREADY TRIED SEVERAL PLACES MYSELF...
WOW... THAT'S PRETTY ANTIQUE STUFF... LEMME CHECK...

NOPE... LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TOO OLD.
ANY IN STOCK AT NAKA-MINE'S?

HMM...

LOOKS LIKE THEY TOTALLY CHANGED THE SPECS ON THIS STUFF FOUR YEARS AGO...

WELL I S'POSE I COULD GET BY WITH AN RW-5901...

I SEE...

ANYTHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

NO, THAT'S OKAY... THANKS FOR CHECKING.

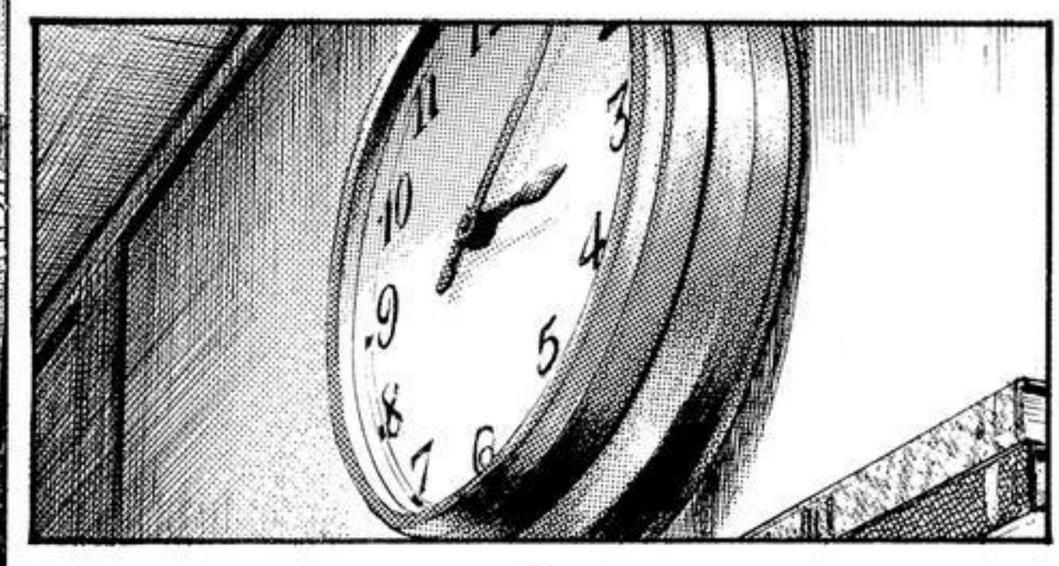
WELL...

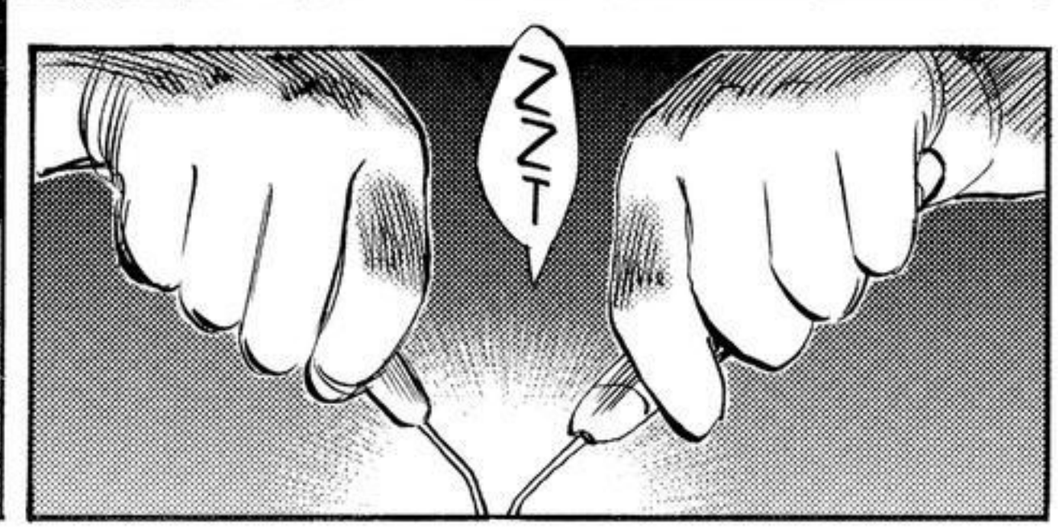
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT I'VE GOT...

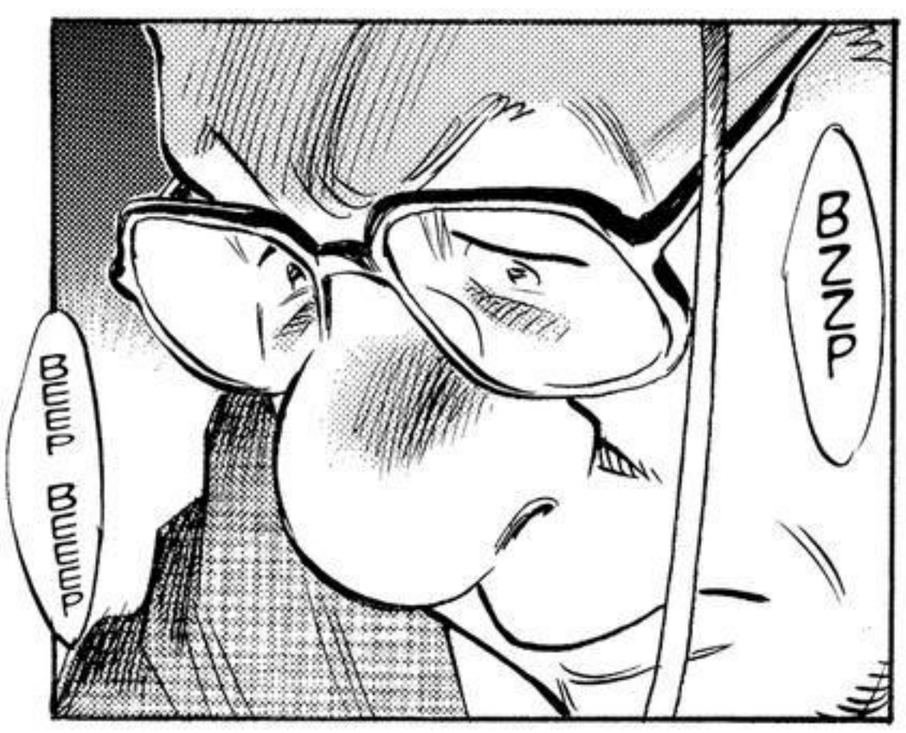
SCIENTISTS LIKE ME. THAT'S WHO.

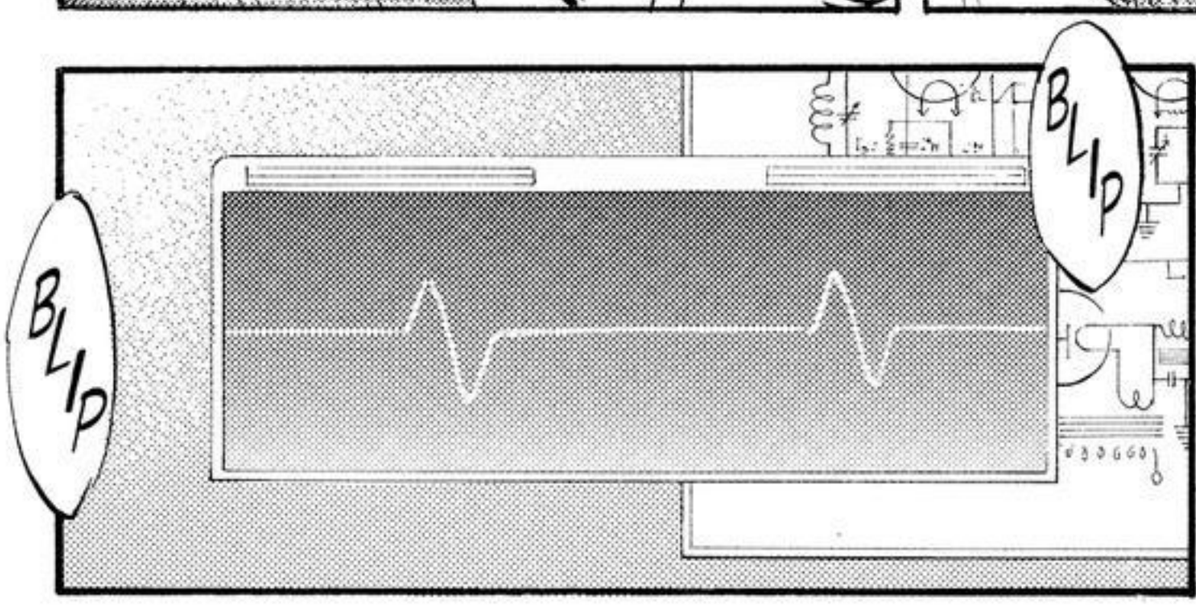
WHO CHANGED THE SPECS...?

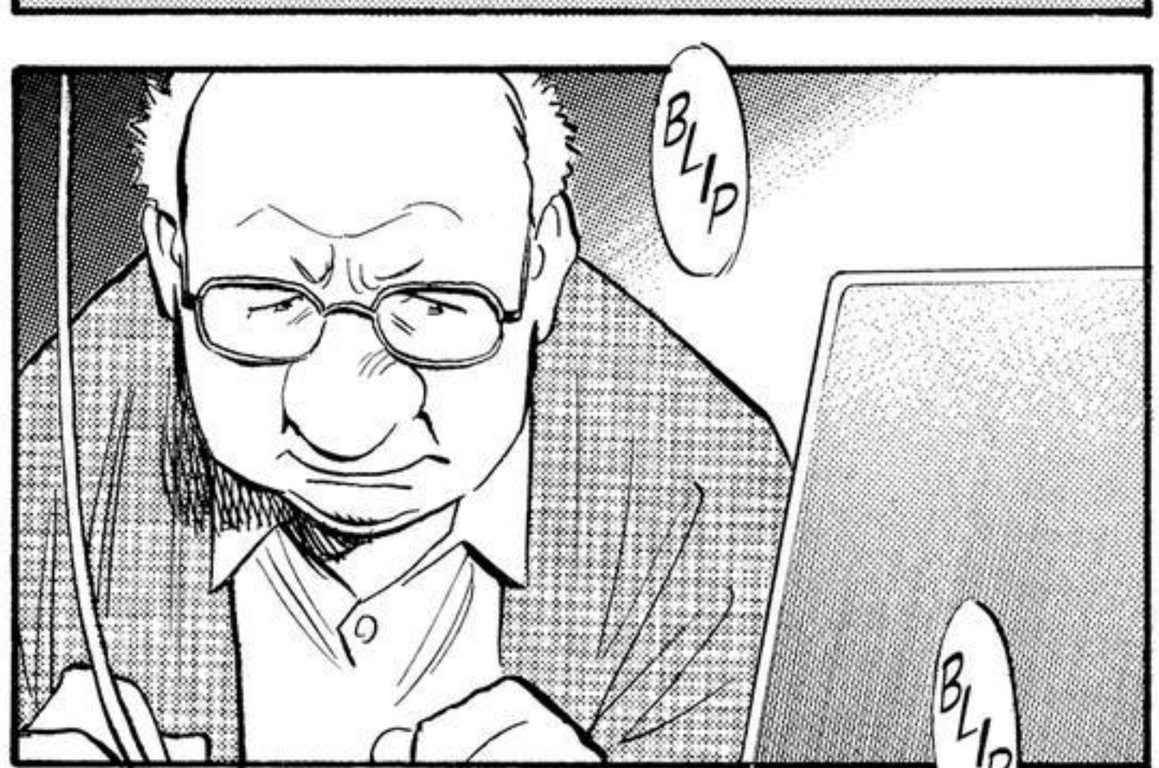
NNNAK

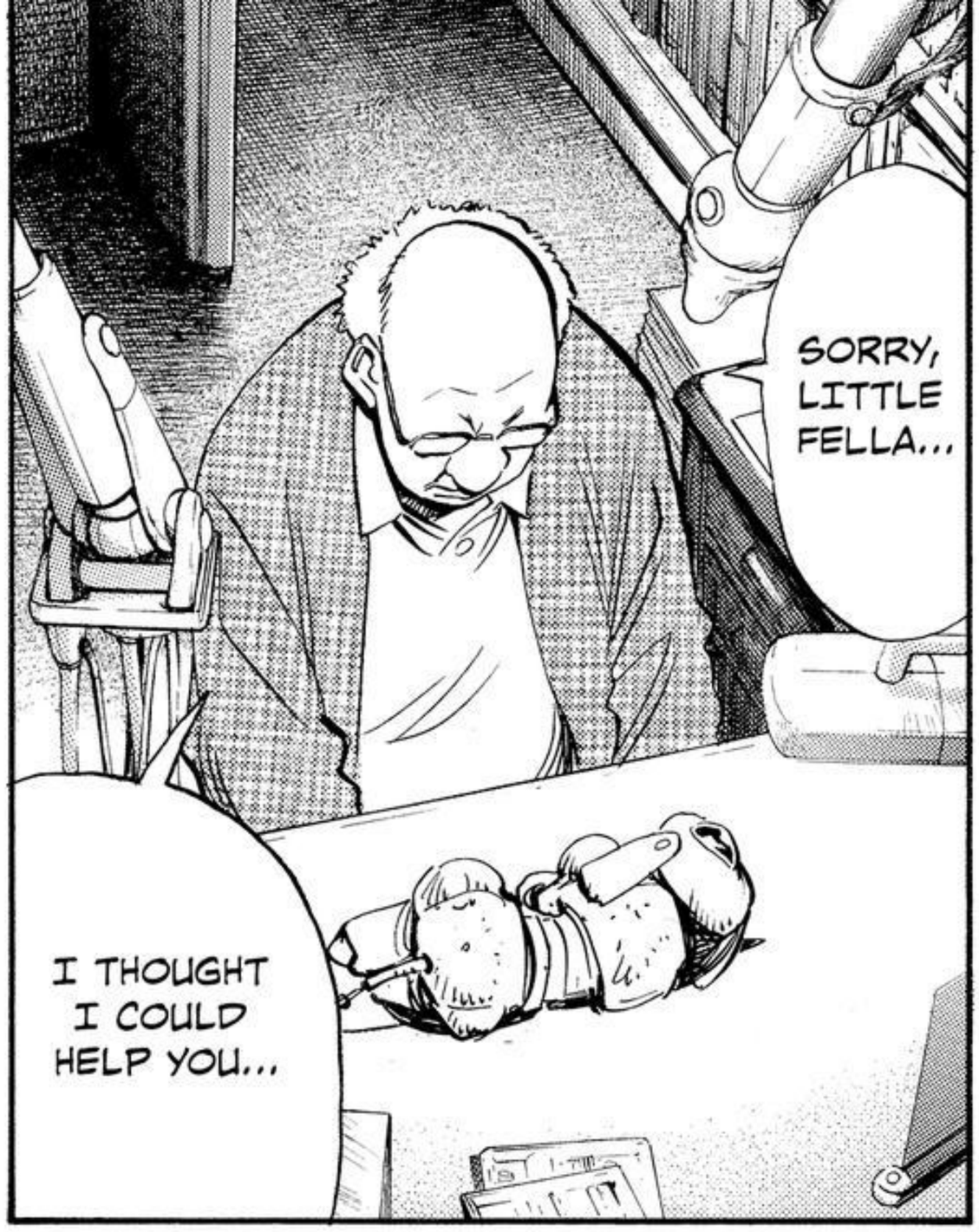


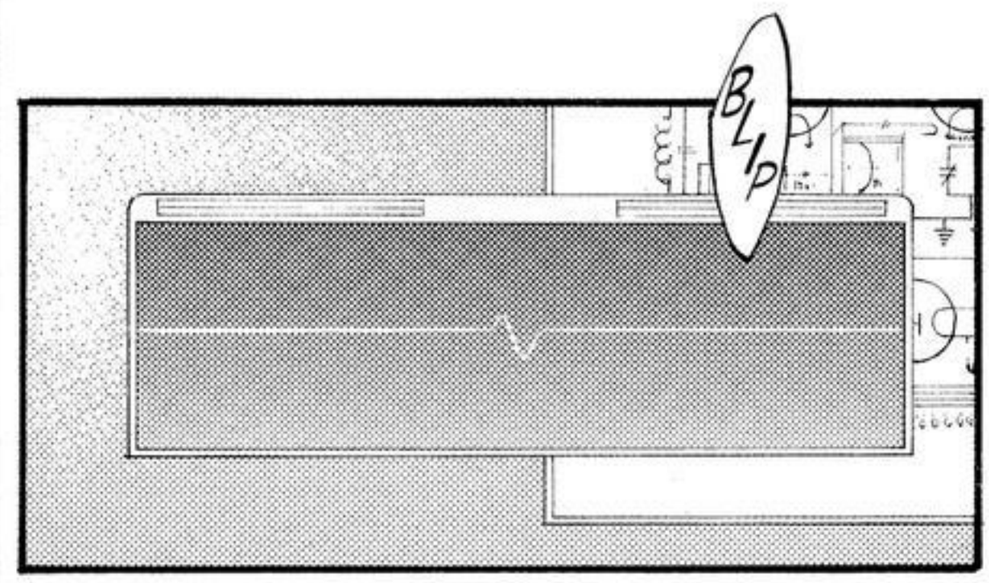

NNT

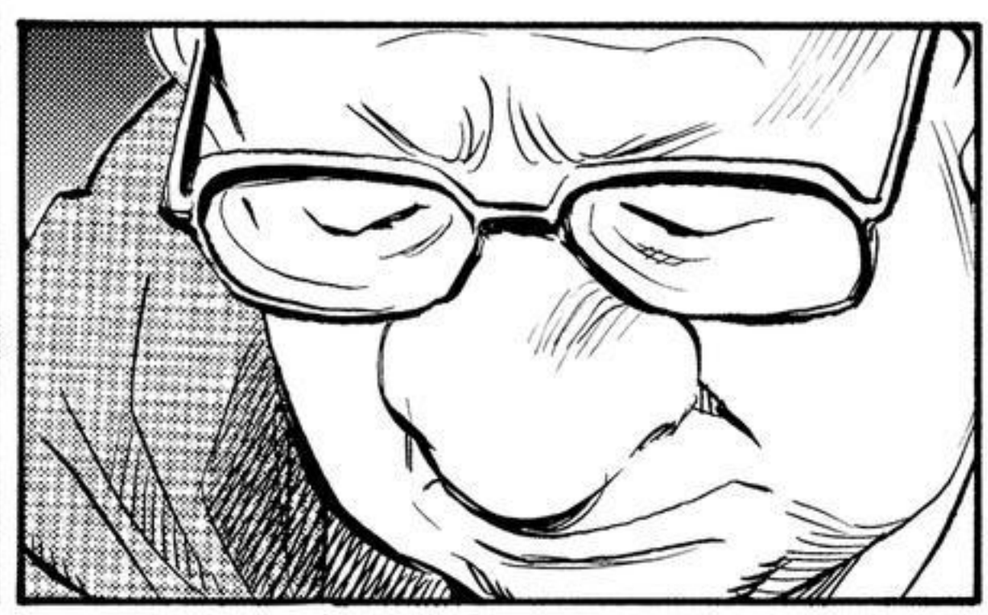

BZZP
BWWP BWWP

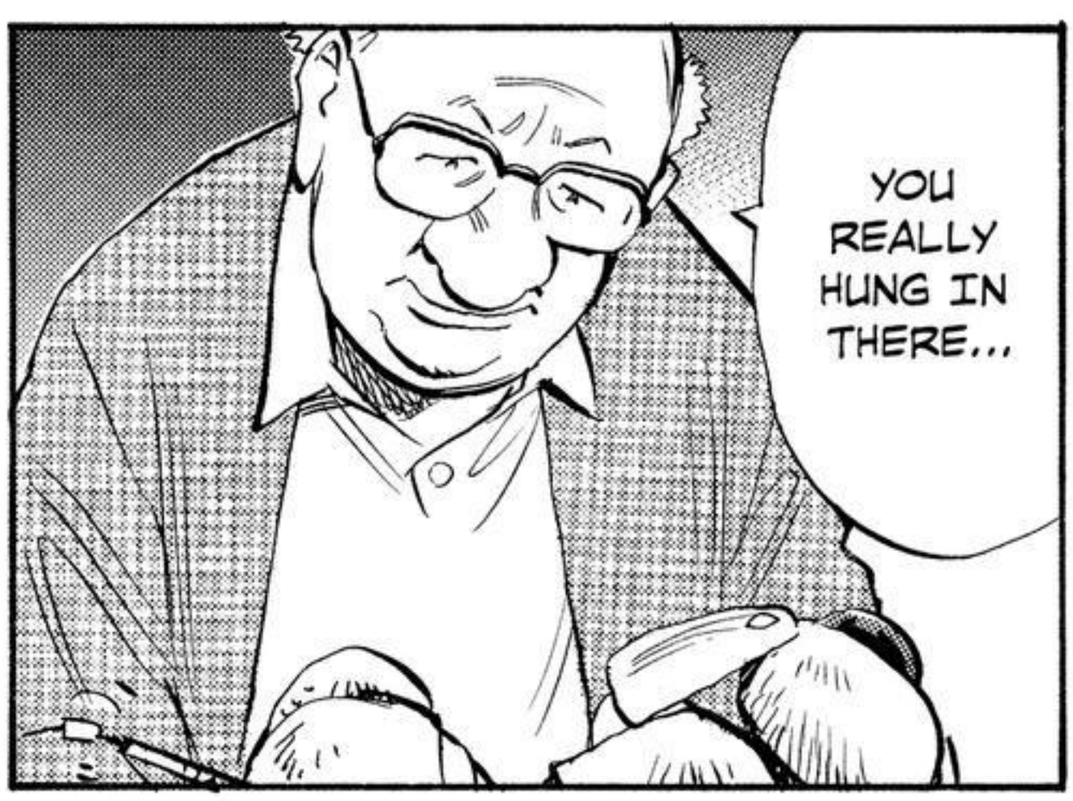

BLIP
BLIP

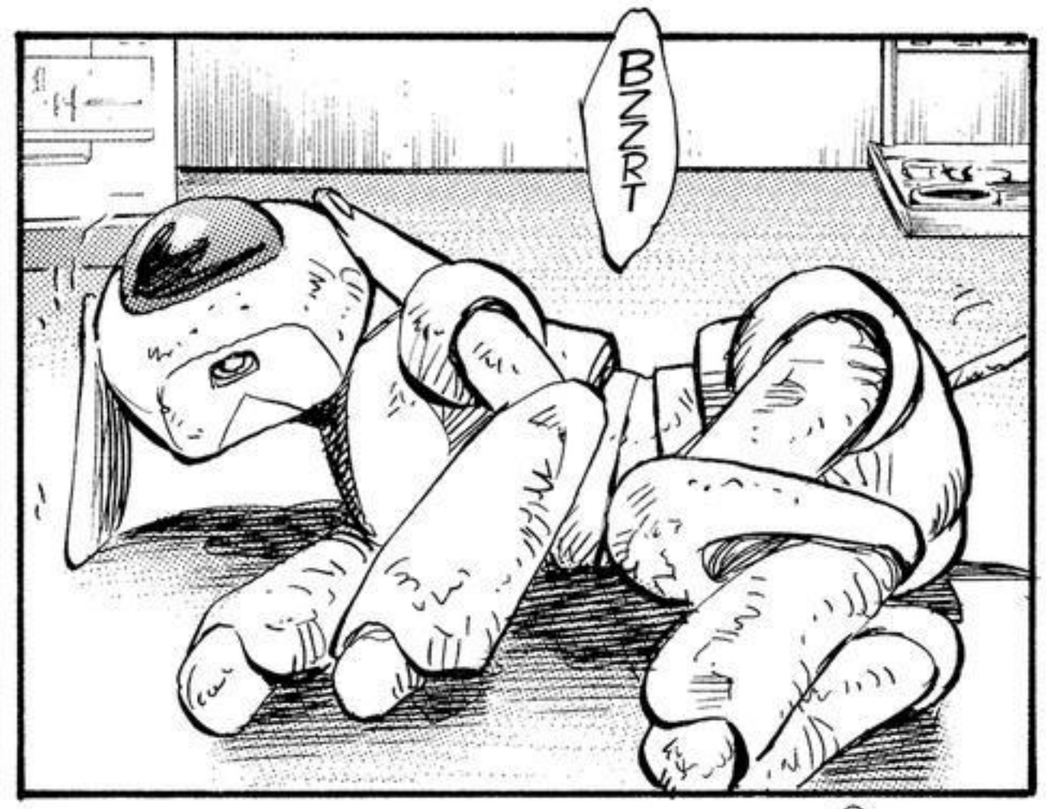

BLIP
BLIP


SORRY, LITTLE FELLA...
I THOUGHT I COULD HELP YOU...

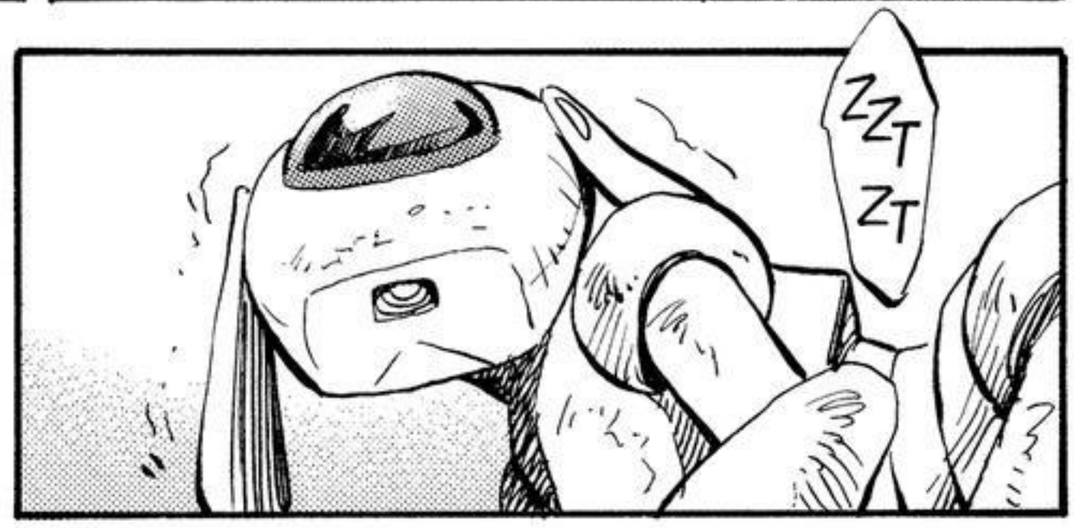

BLIP

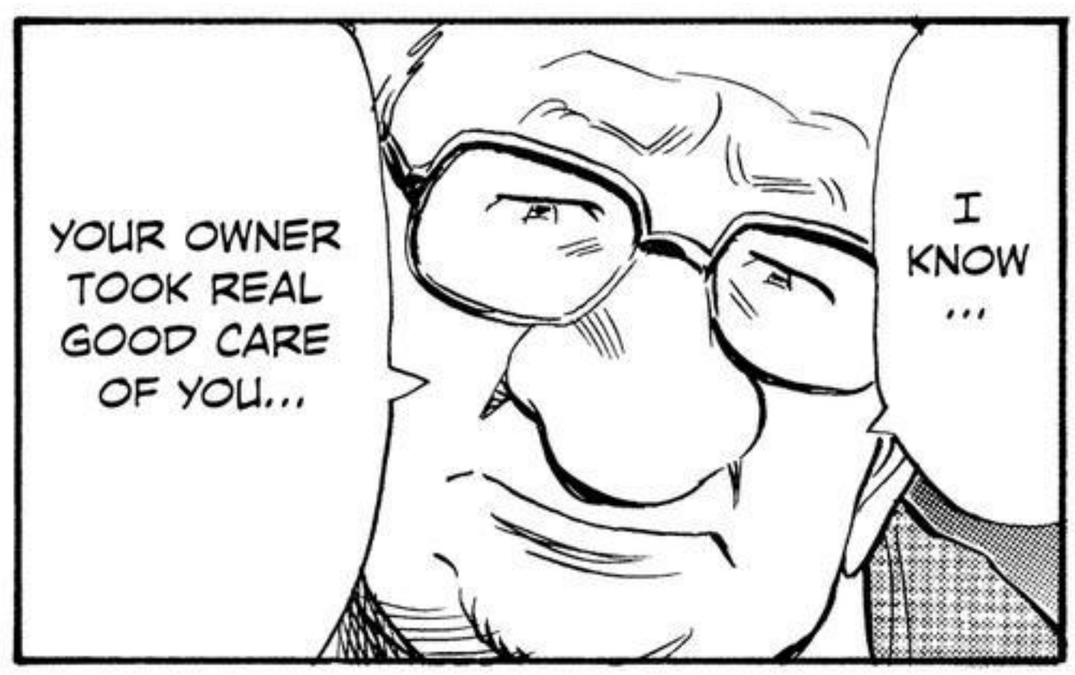


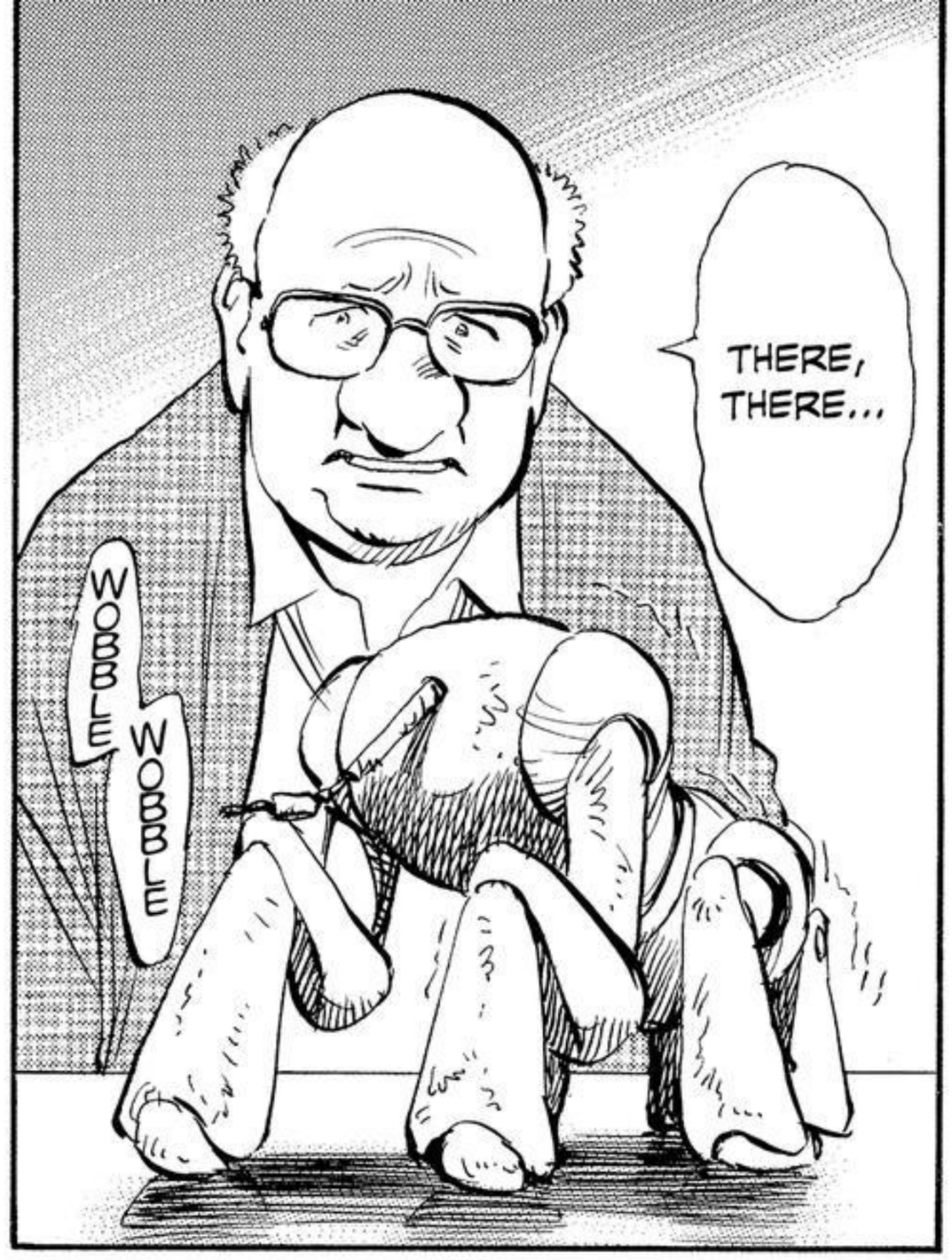

YOU REALLY HUNG IN THERE...

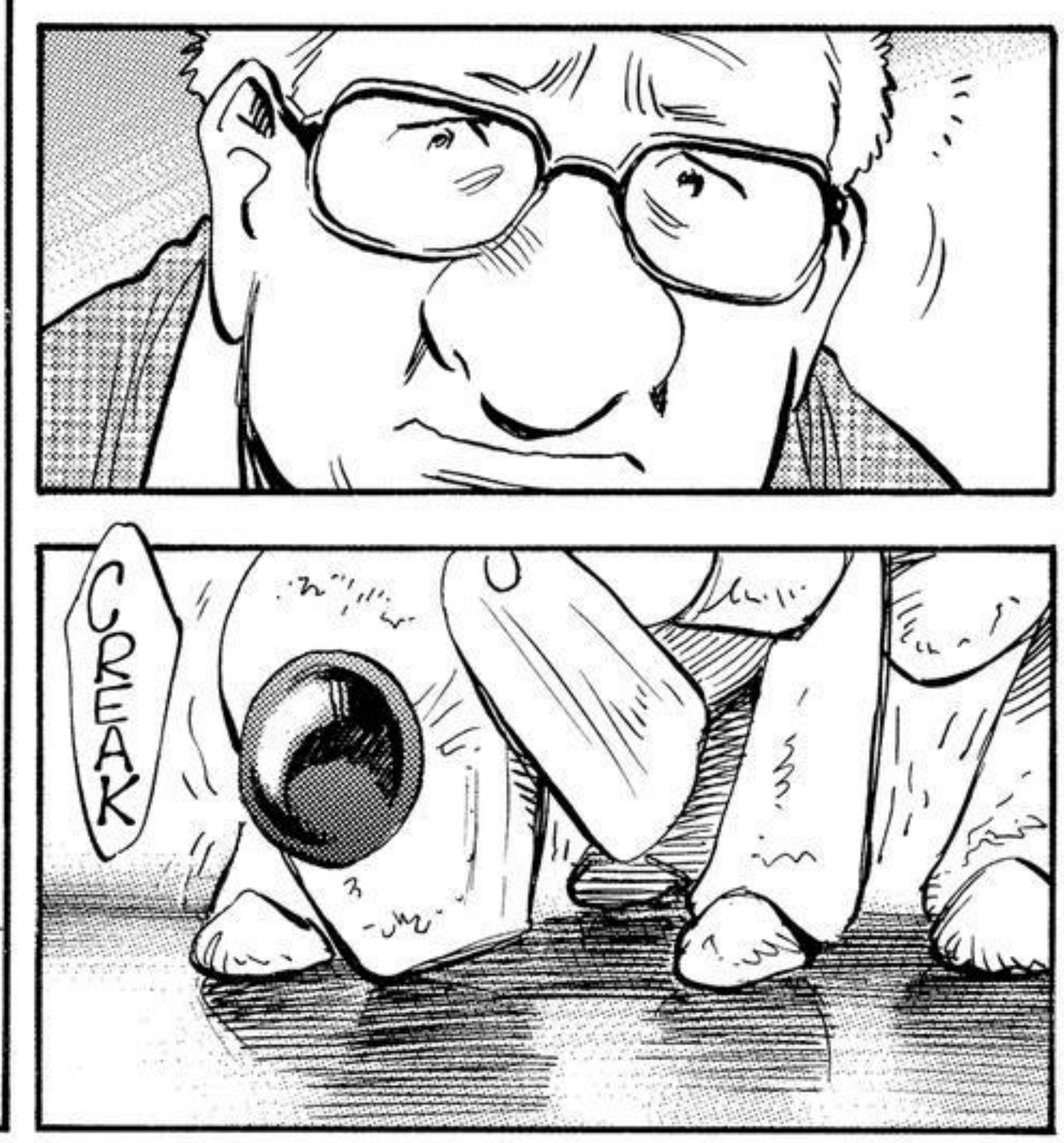

BZZRT

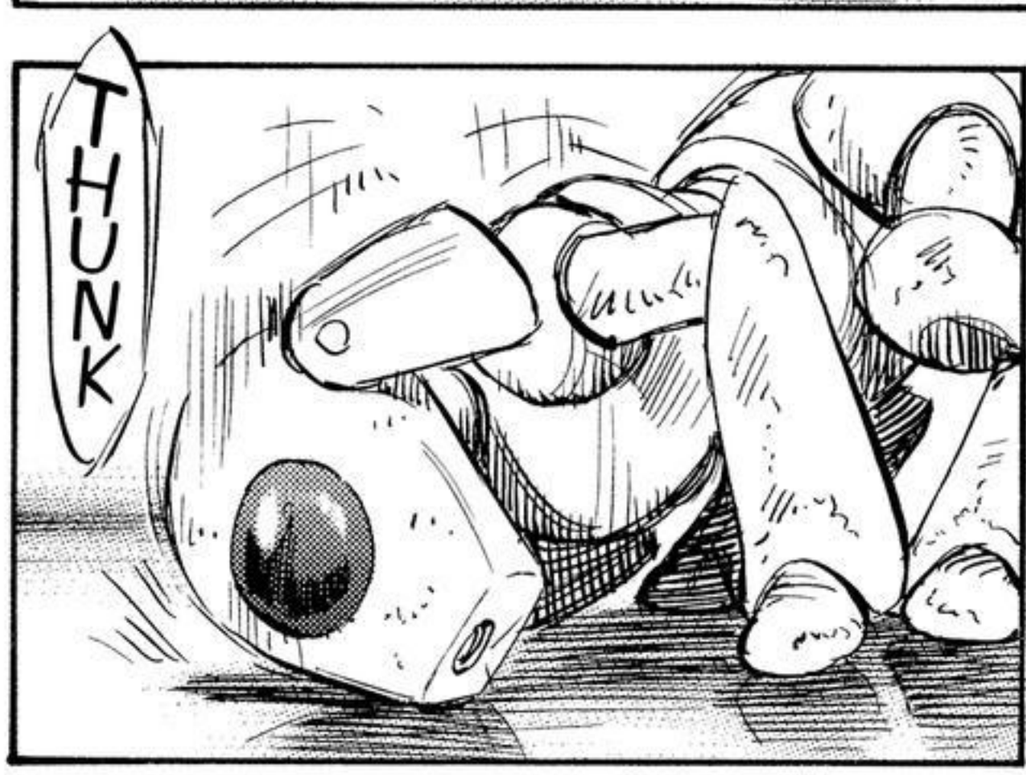
YOU WERE TRULY LOVED...
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE LASTED AS LONG AS YOU HAVE...


ZZT ZT

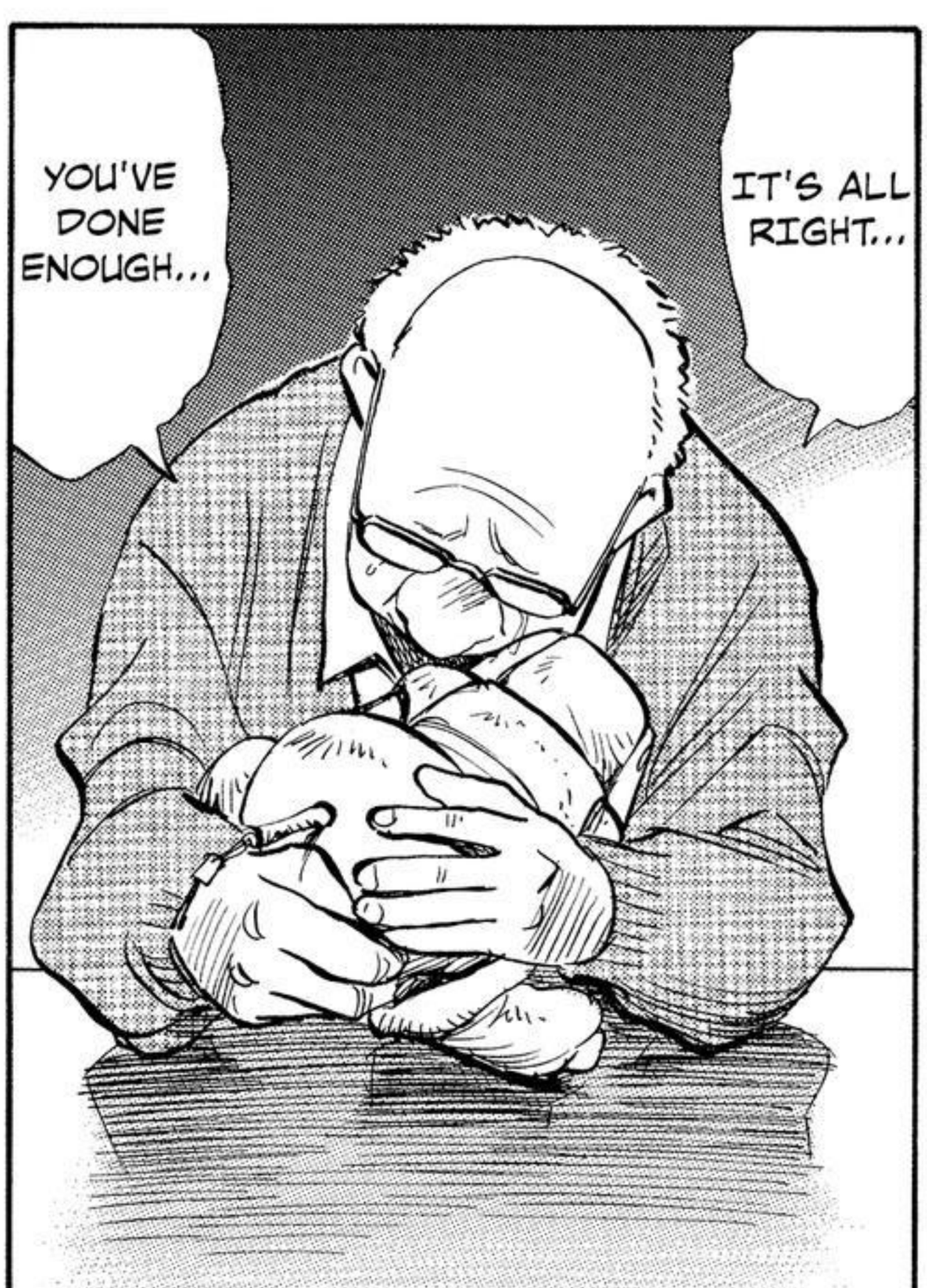

YOUR OWNER TOOK REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU...
I KNOW ...


THERE, THERE...
WOBBLE WOBBLE

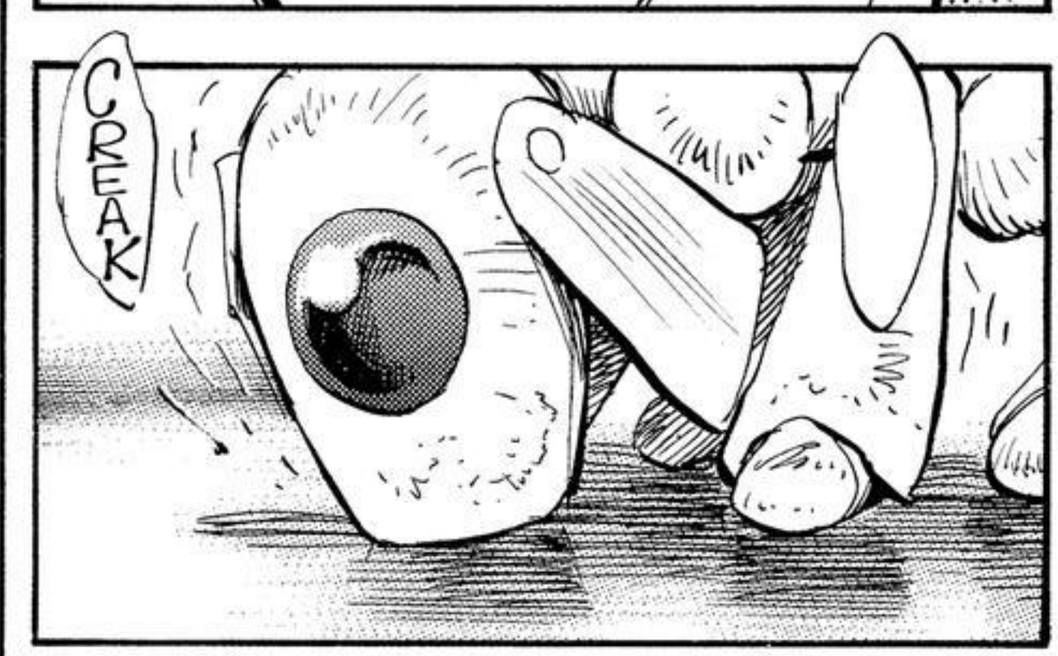

CREAK


THUNK

STILL TRYING TO GET UP AND PLAY, AREN'T YOU?

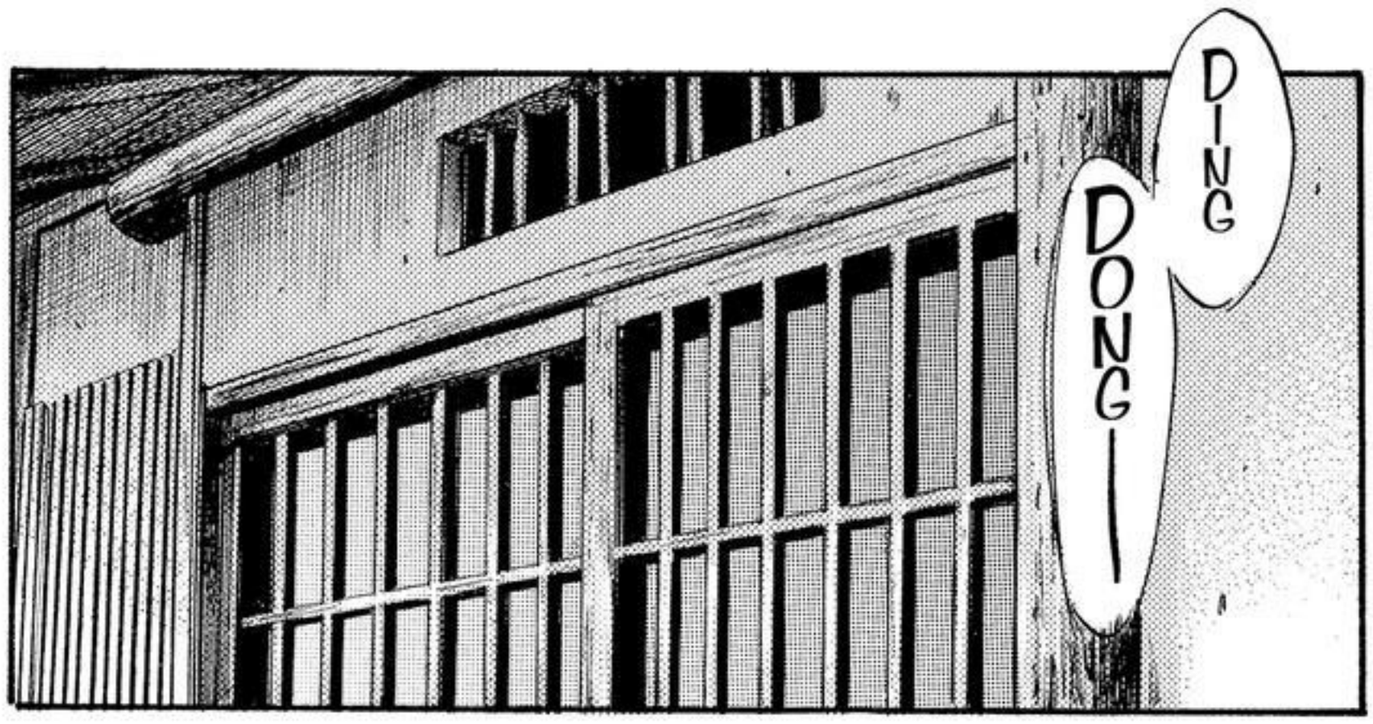

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

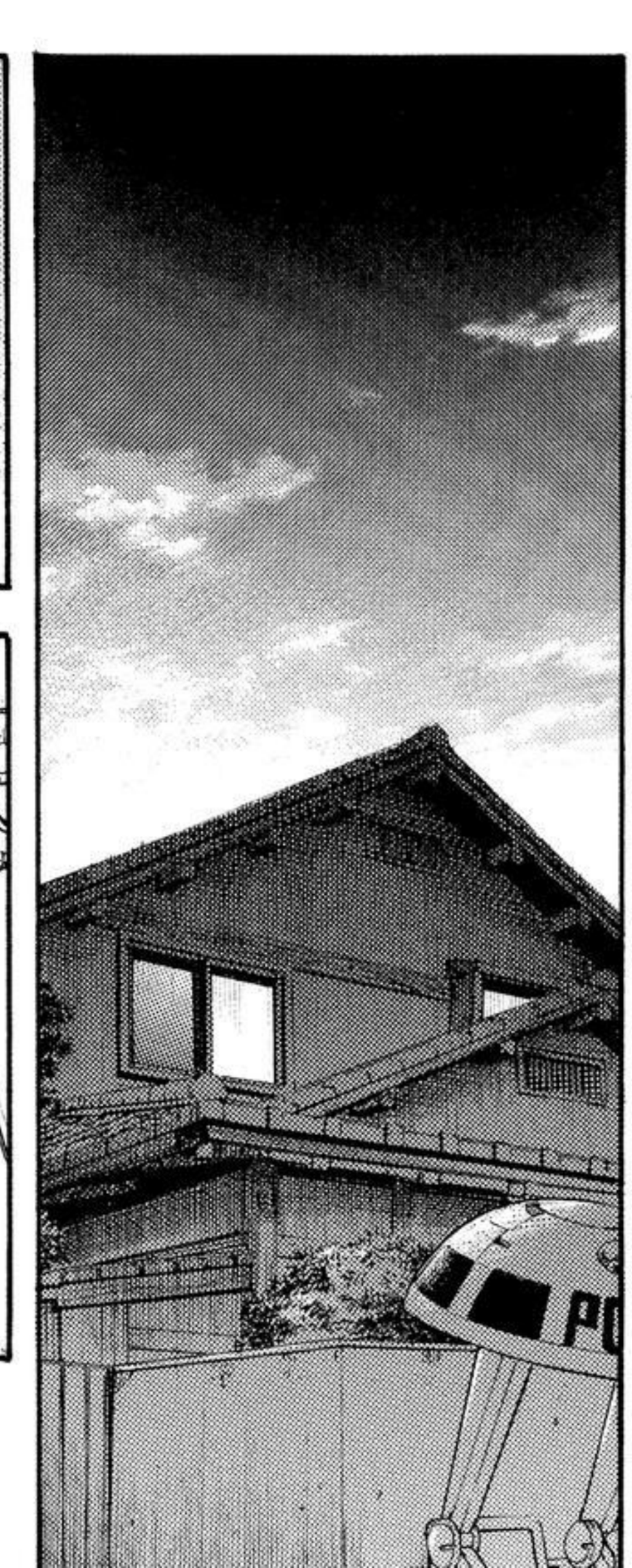
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

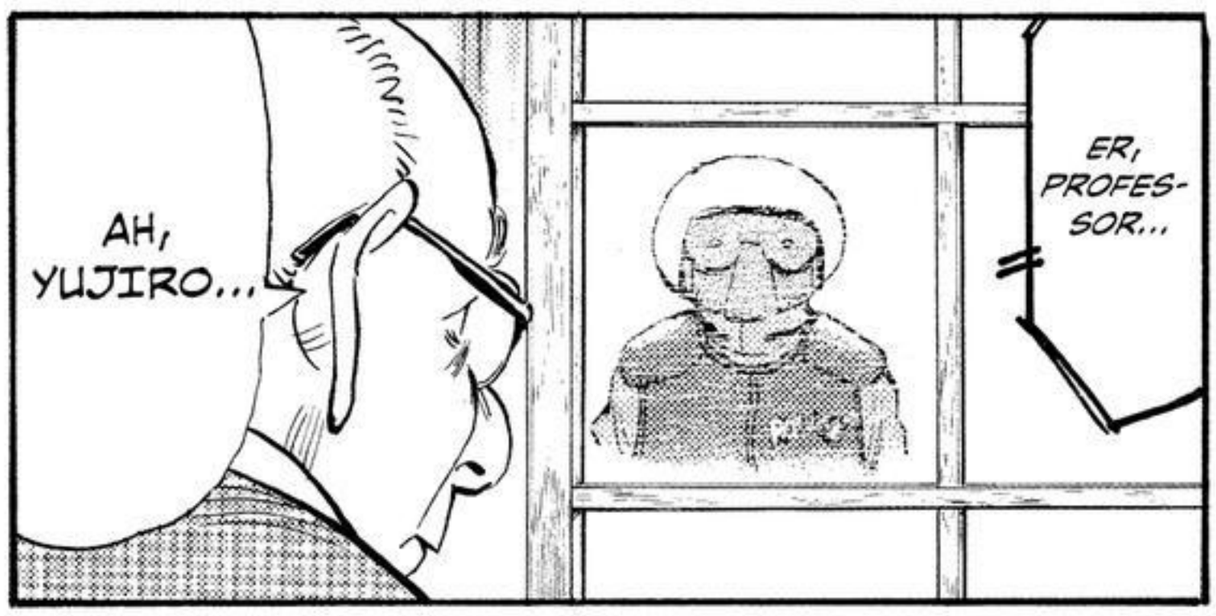

CREAK

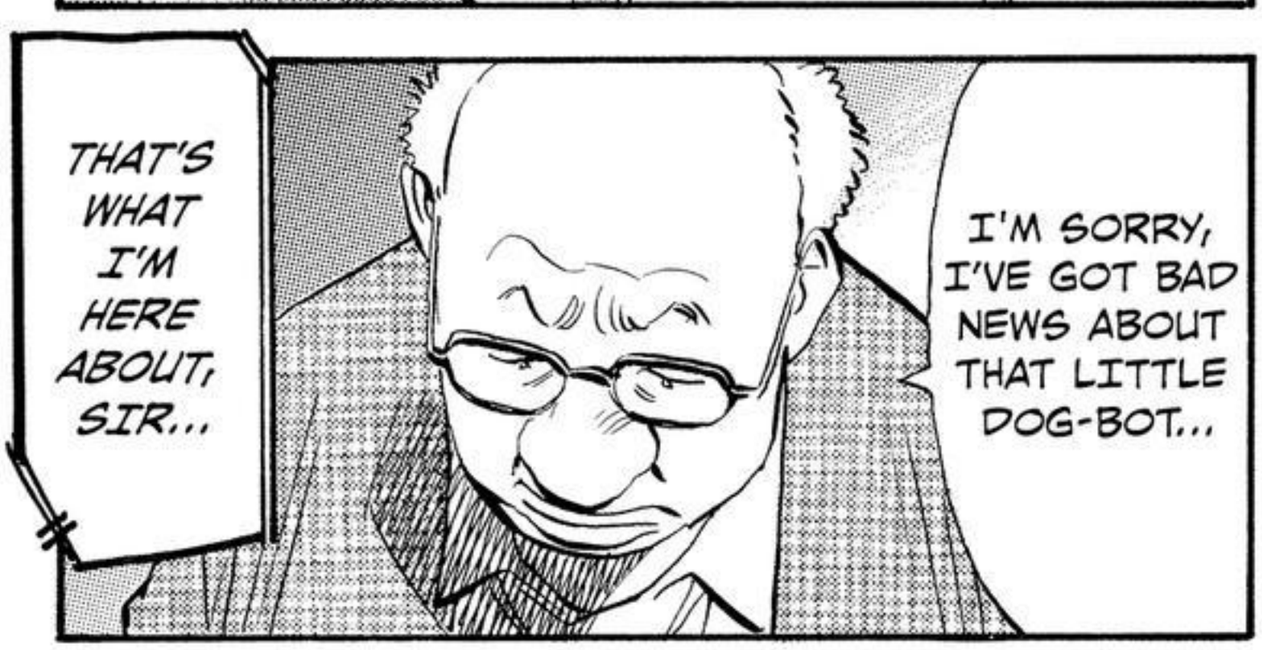
YOU CAN REST NOW...

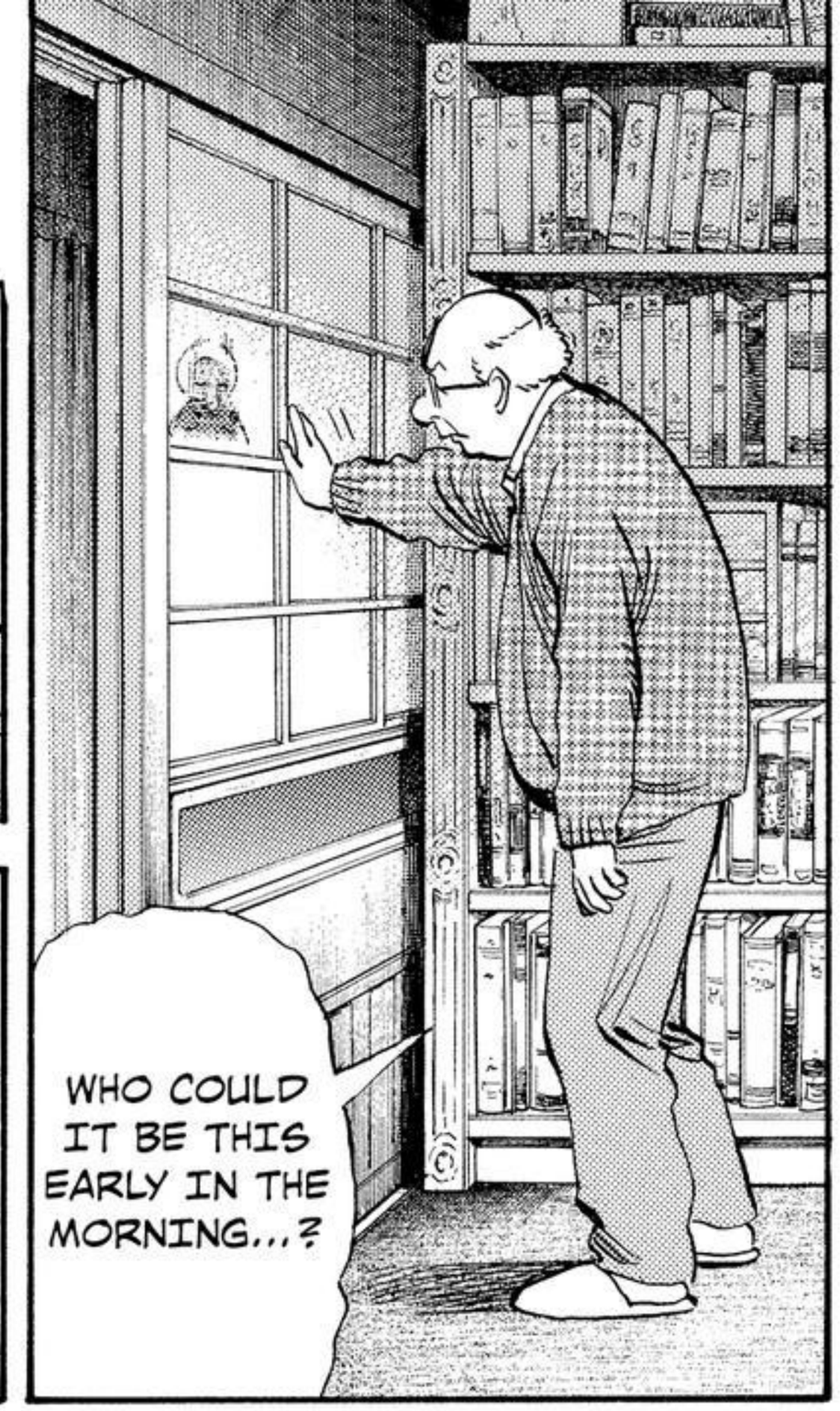
BEEEEEEP——

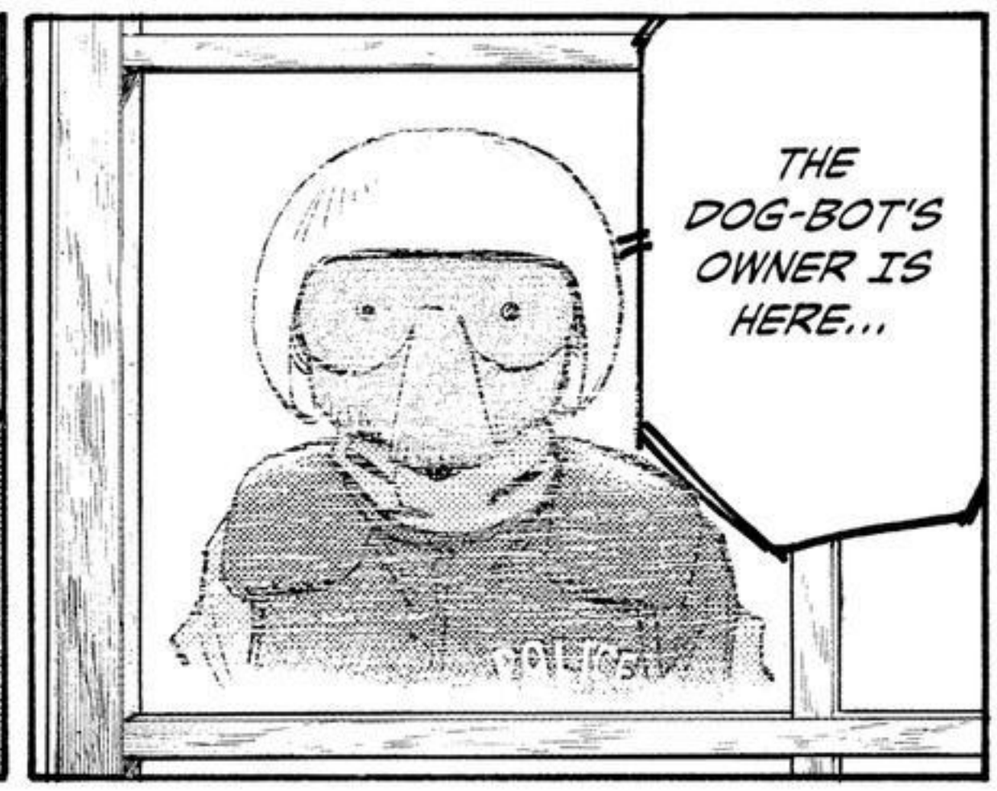


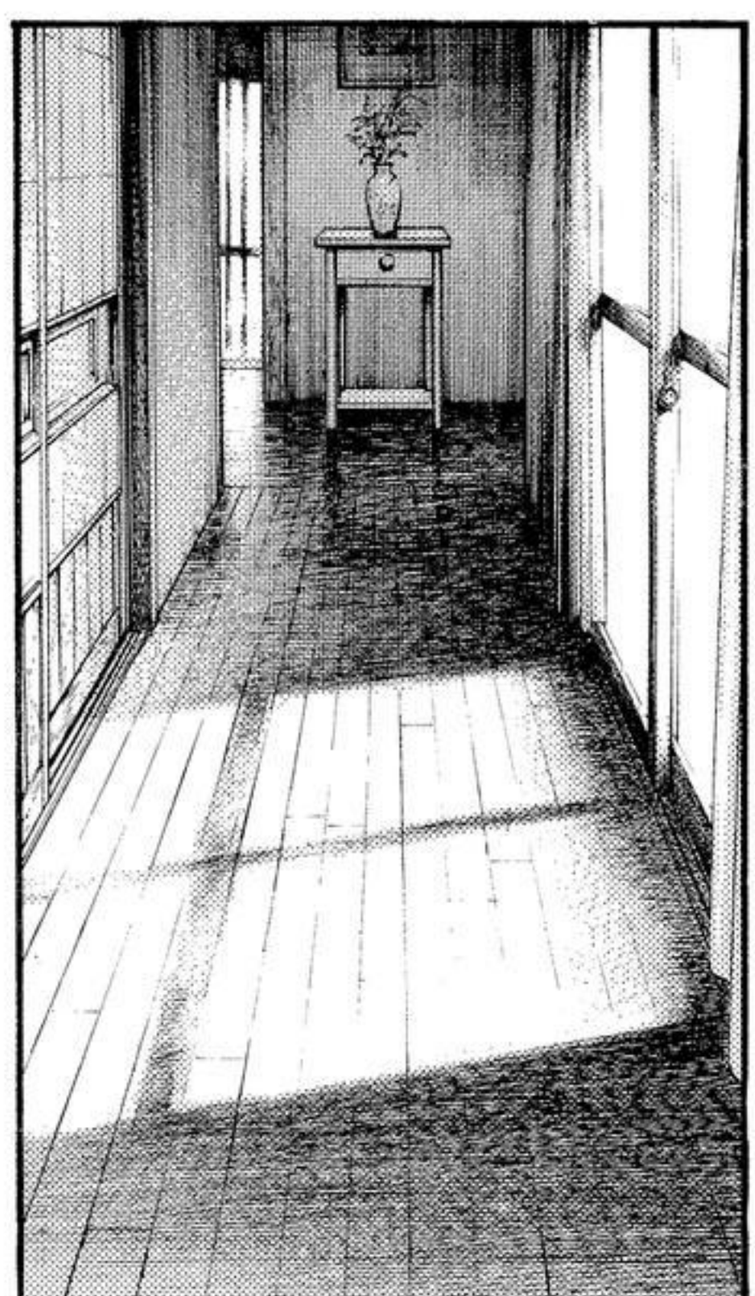



AH, YUJIRO...
ER, PROFES-SOR...


THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE ABOUT, SIR...
I'M SORRY, I'VE GOT BAD NEWS ABOUT THAT LITTLE DOG-BOT...


WHO COULD IT BE THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING...?


THE DOG-BOT'S OWNER IS HERE...

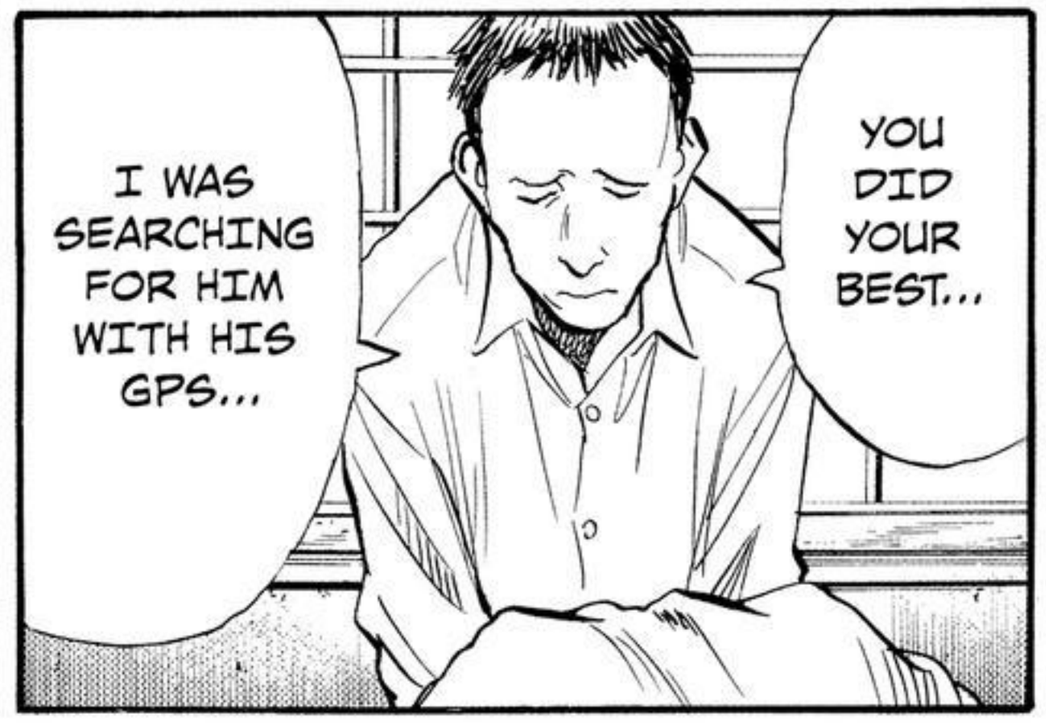


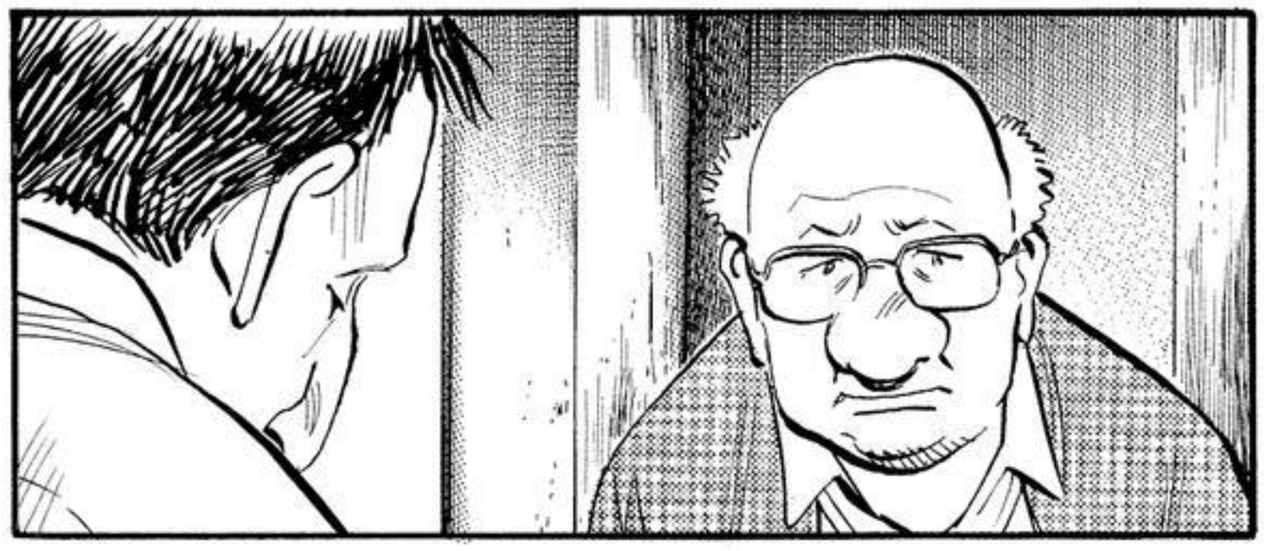
IT'S ALL RIGHT, YUJIRO...
B-BUT SIR...

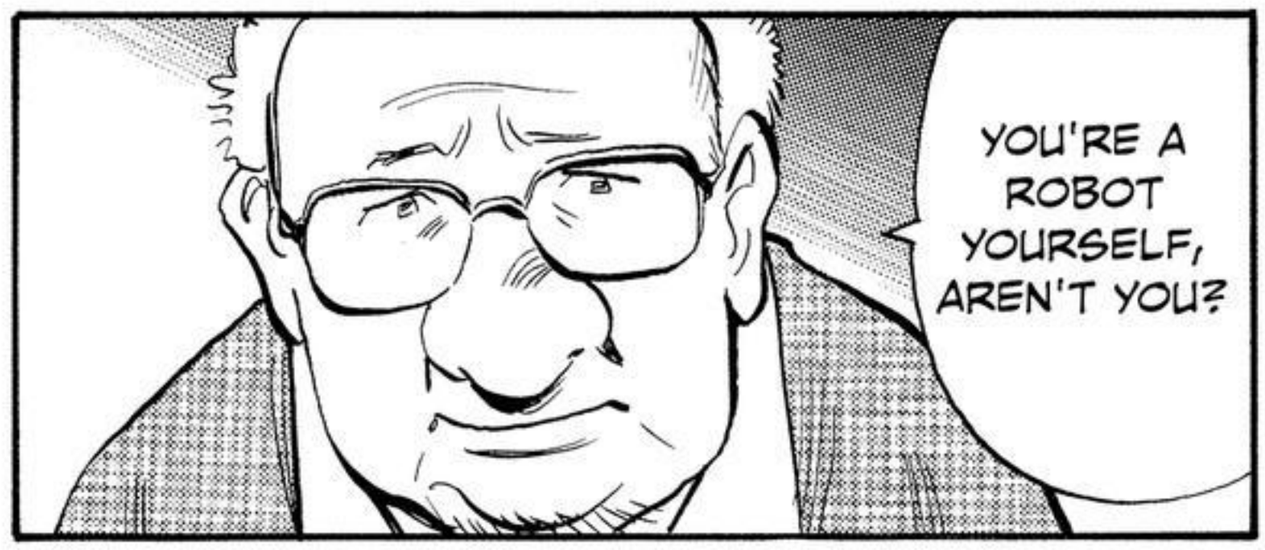
NEVER MIND THAT. JUST SHOW HIM IN...
I'LL CHECK HIS ID AND BODY CHECK HIM...

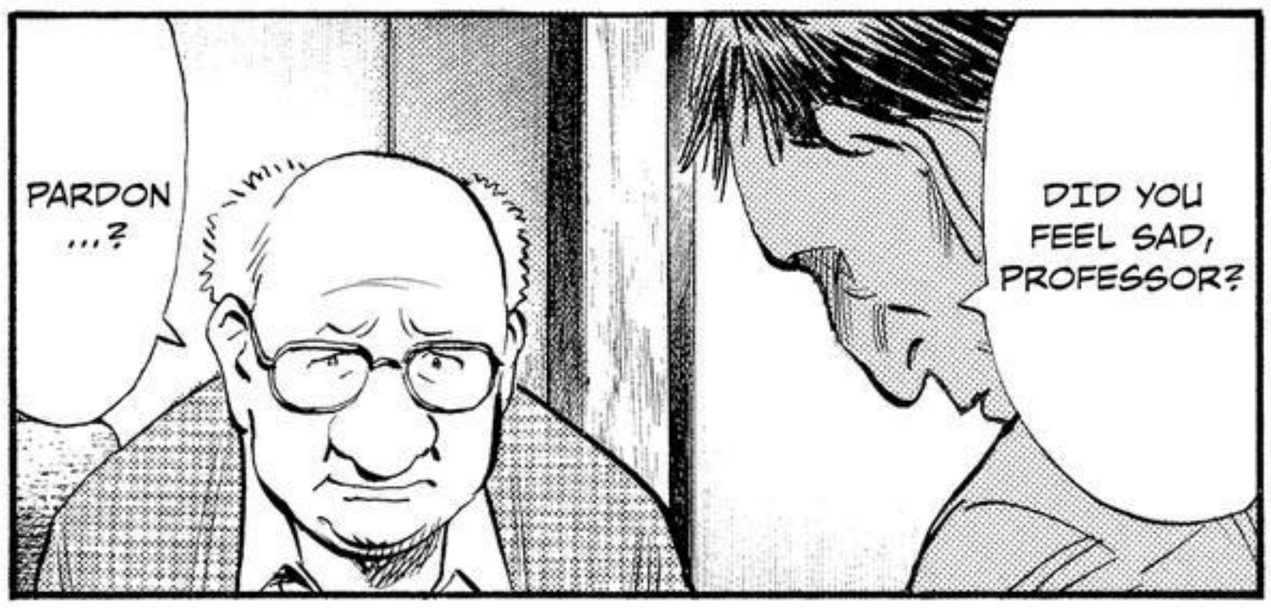
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS, PROFESSOR...

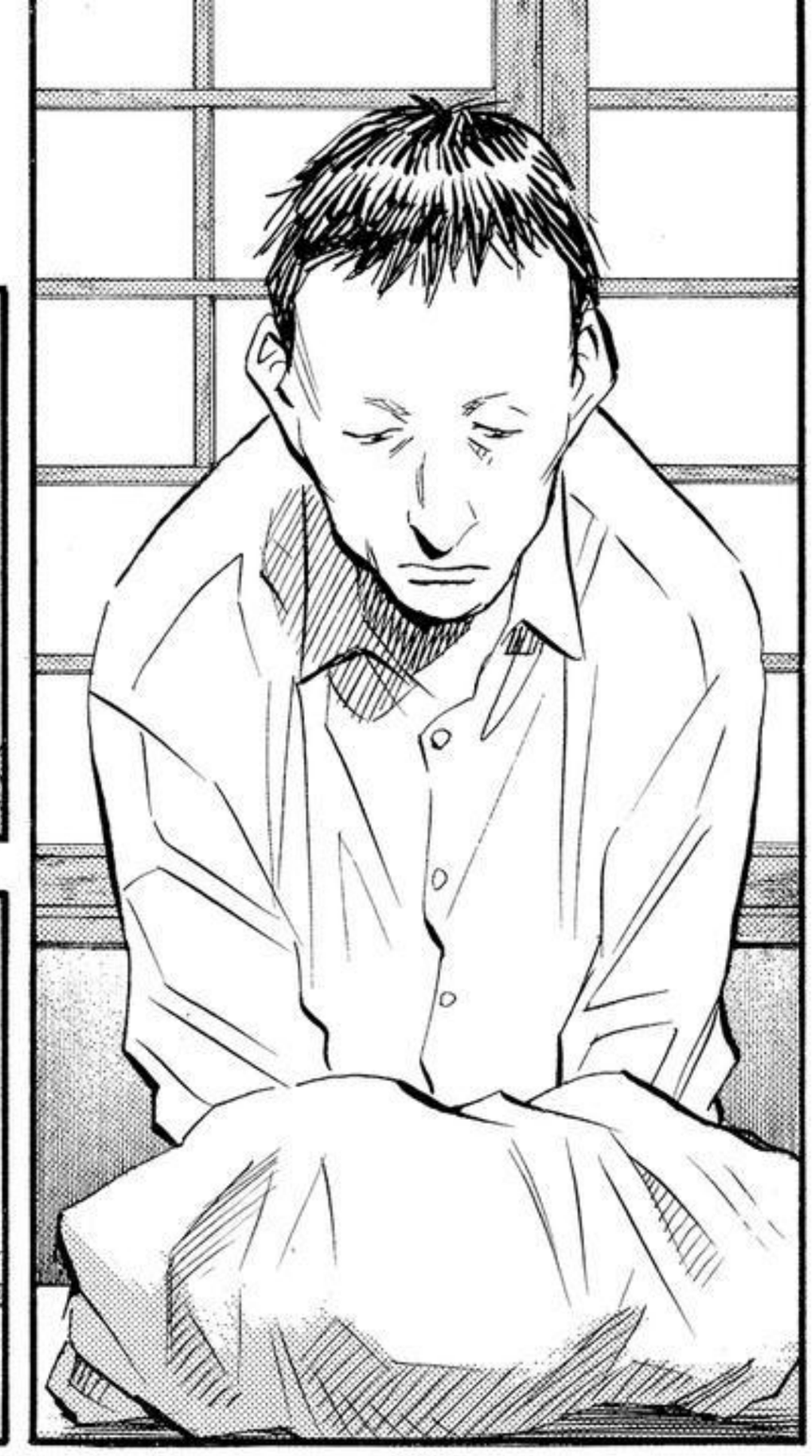
I'M JUST SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP HIM...





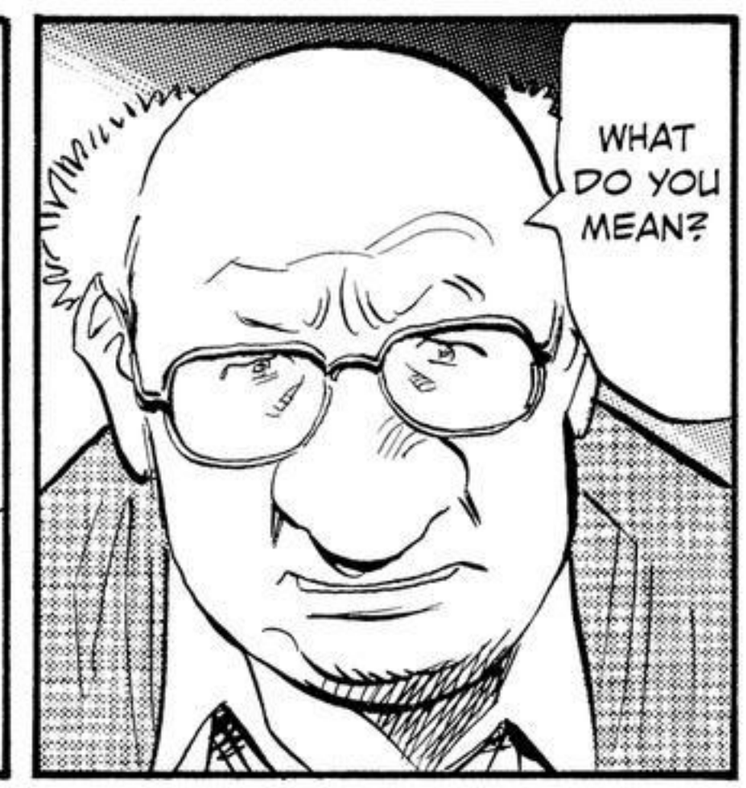



PARDON ...?
DID YOU FEEL SAD, PROFESSOR?



WHEN MY DOG-BOT... DIED?
DID YOU FEEL SAD WHEN MY DOG...

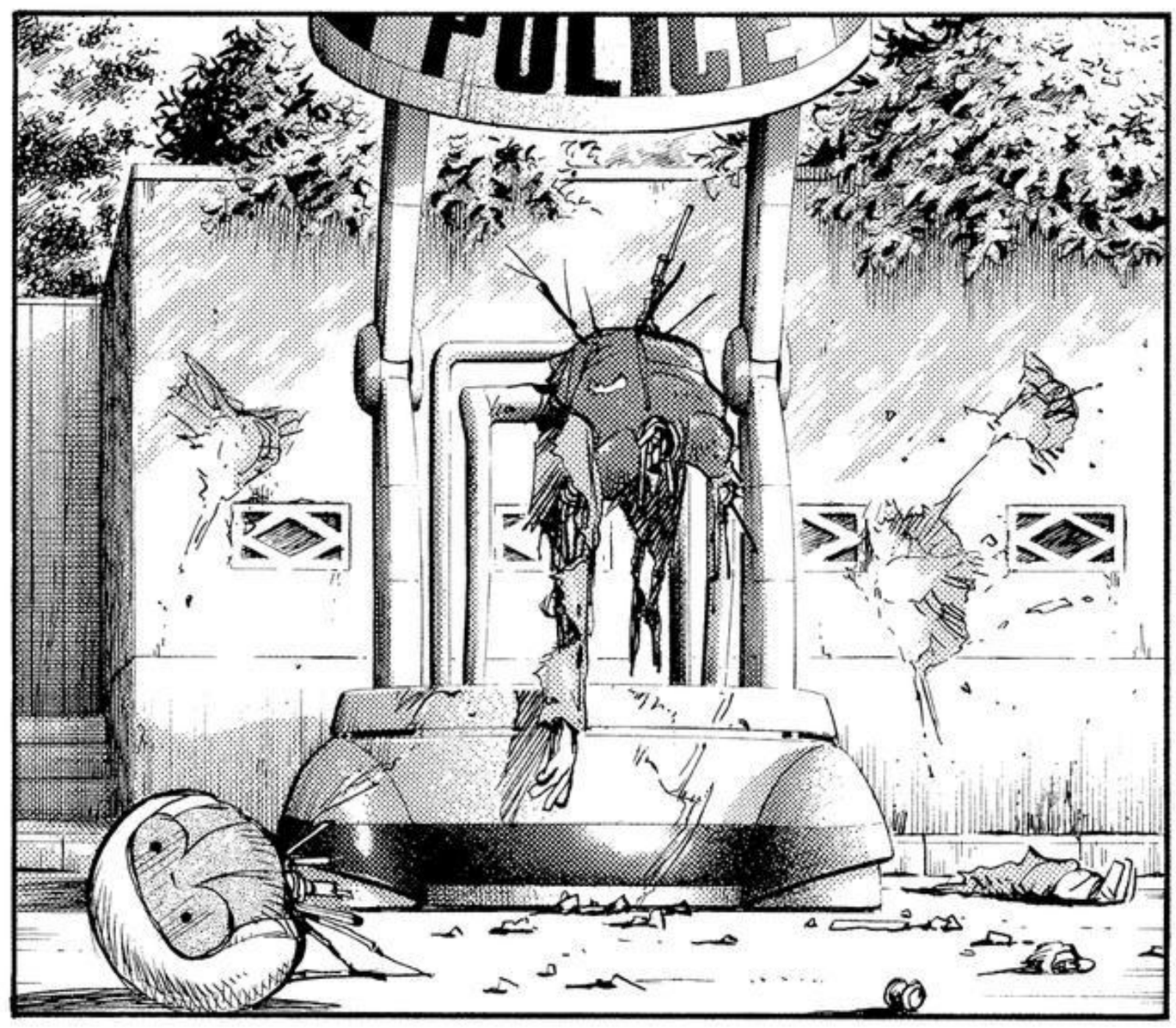
...DURING THE WAR TOO?
DID YOU FEEL SAD...

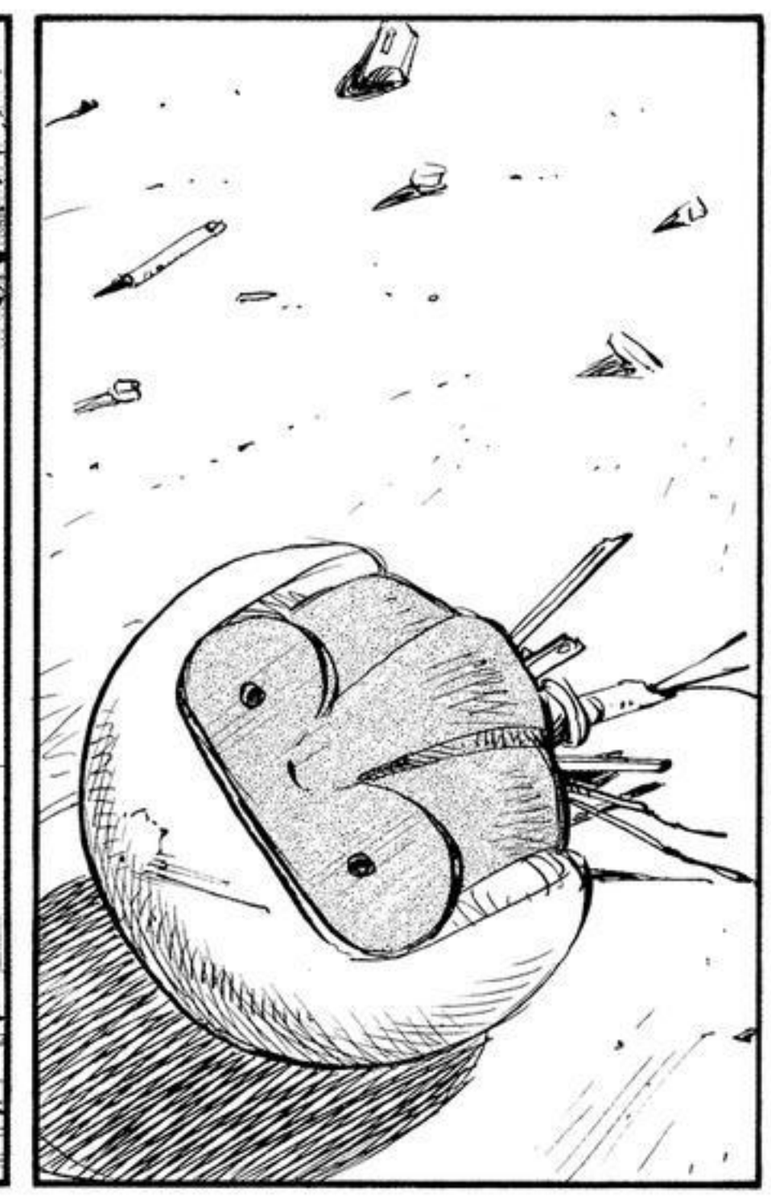

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MY NAME IS...
ME?

WAIT A MINUTE...
WHO ARE YOU...?

...
GOJI
...


POLICE



YOUR LIFE IS IN MY HANDS NOW, PROFESSOR.

GOJI ...?
THE ONE THEY SAY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING THE PERSIAN KINGDOM'S ROBOT ARMY ...?

I HAVE SOMEONE FOR HIM TO *FIGHT*...
I WANT YOU TO SUMMON ATOM...

THERE'S *NO WAY* YOU CAN FORCE ME TO MAKE ATOM COME HERE!!

YOU THINK THAT WILL MAKE ME CALL ATOM?!

NOW HOLD ON! ARE YOU TRYING TO *THREATEN* ME?!

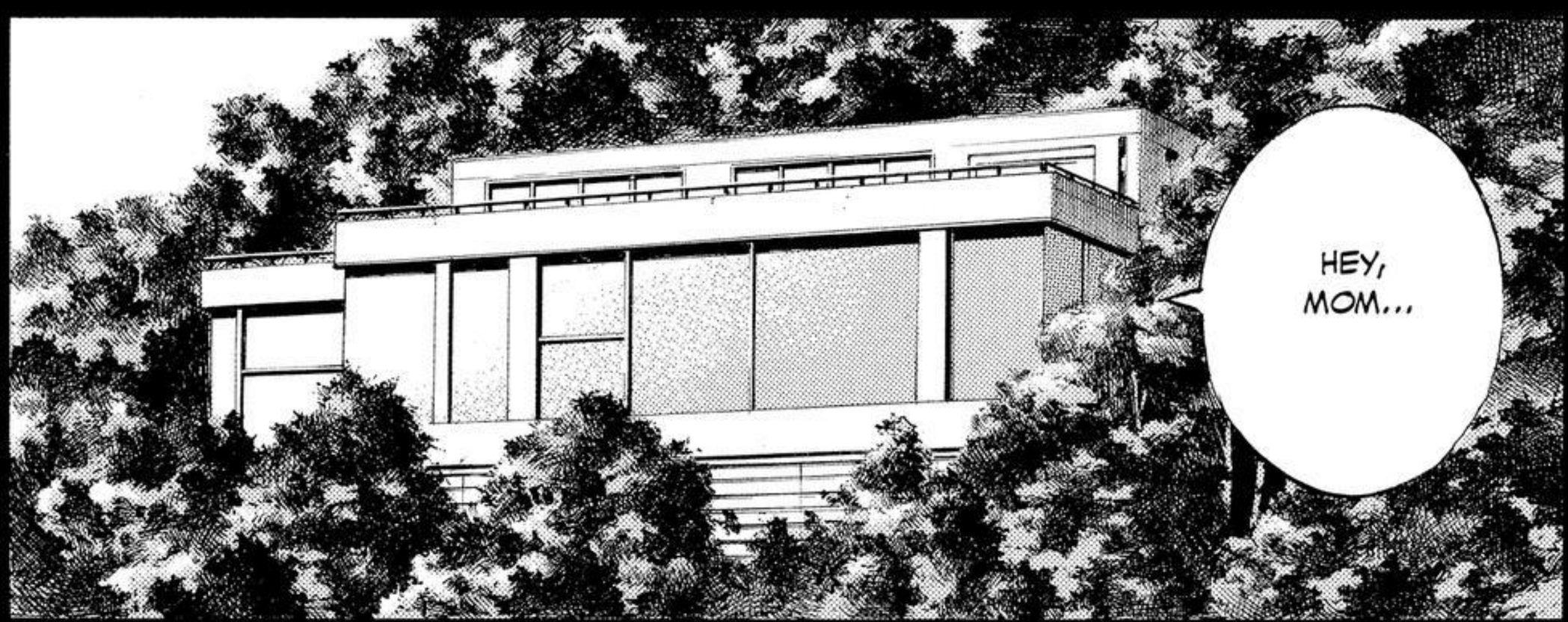
I WANT YOU TO HAVE ATOM GO SOMEWHERE... IMMEDIATELY...

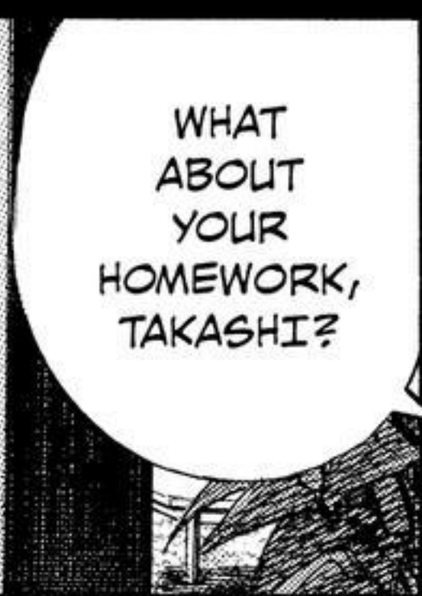
NO. I DON'T WANT YOU TO CALL HIM HERE...

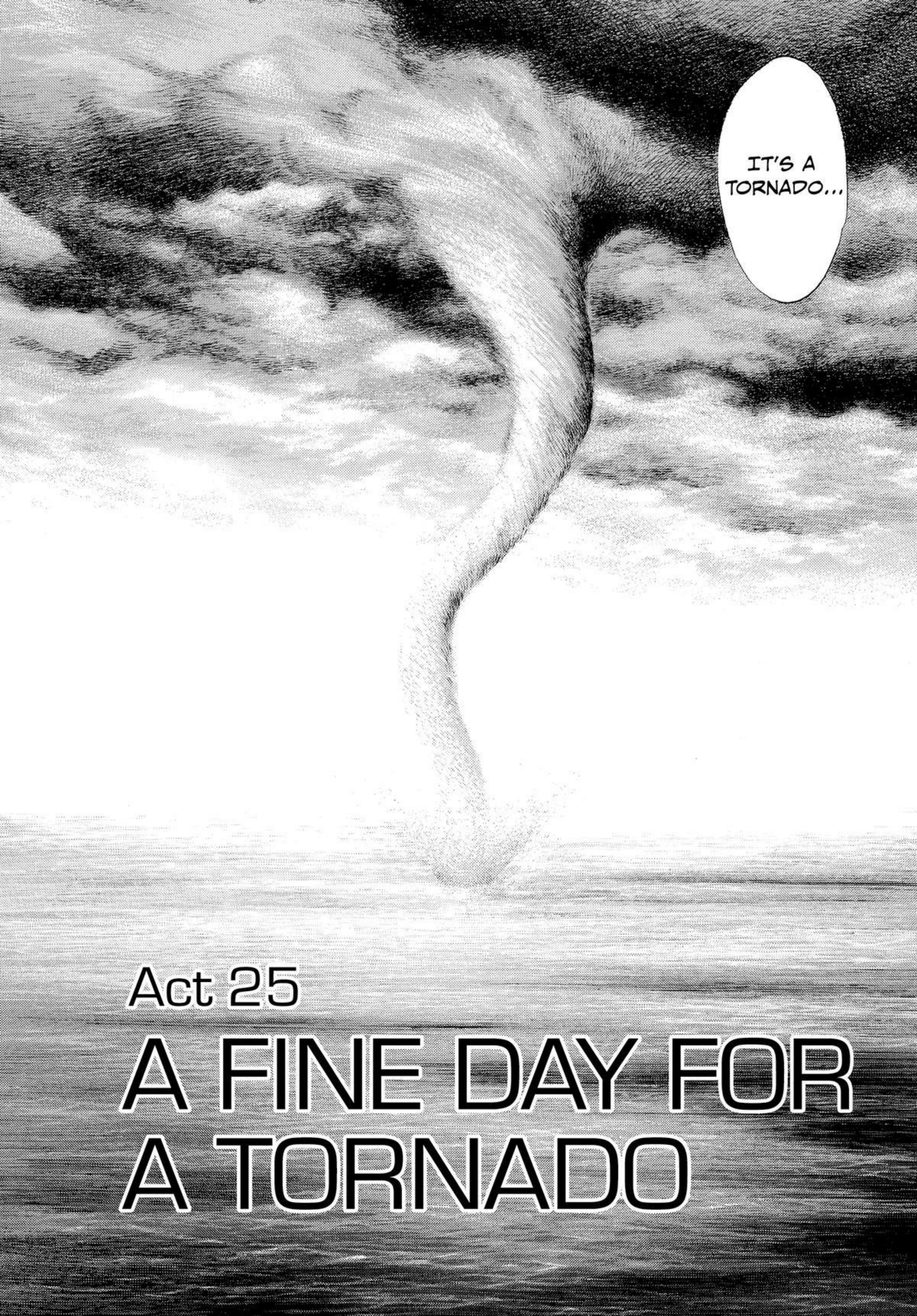
I WANT HIM TO GO TO THE ONE PLACE IN JAPAN WHERE A TORNADO HAS JUST TOUCHED DOWN...

TORNADO...?!

Act 25 A FINE DAY FOR A TORNADO

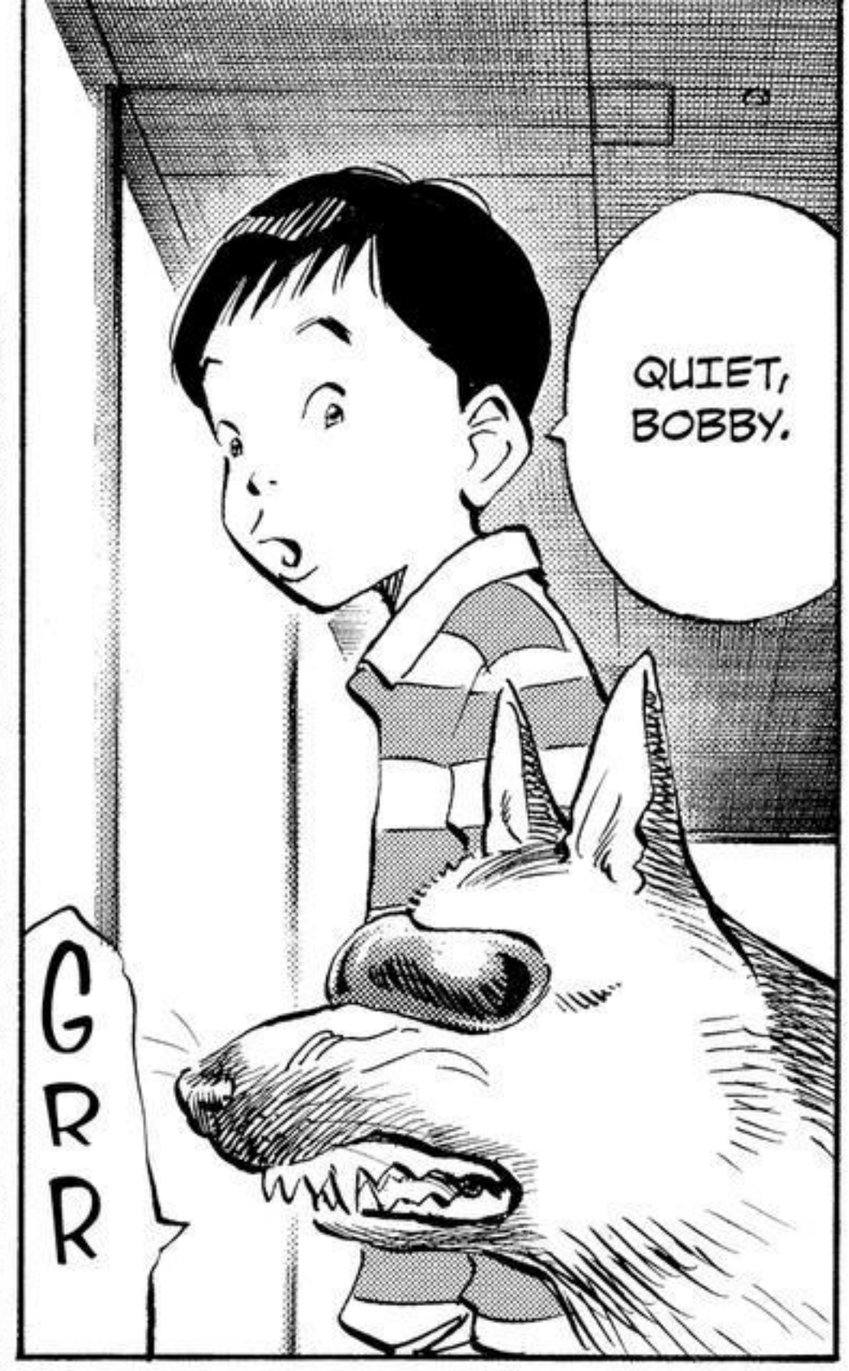


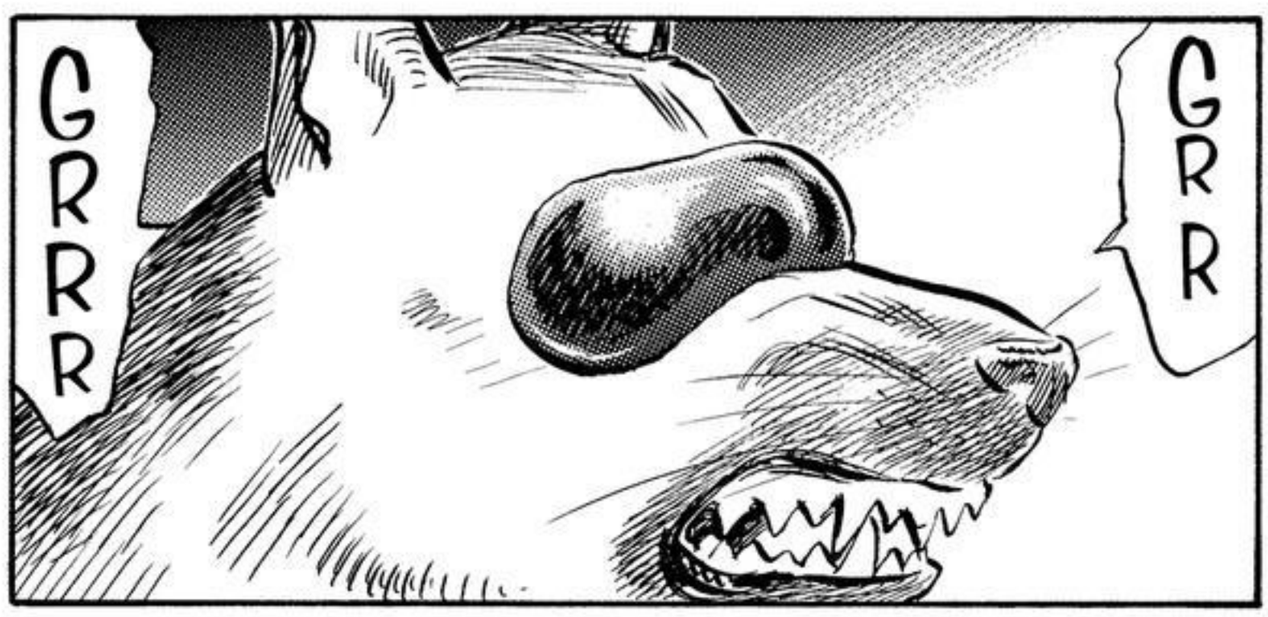


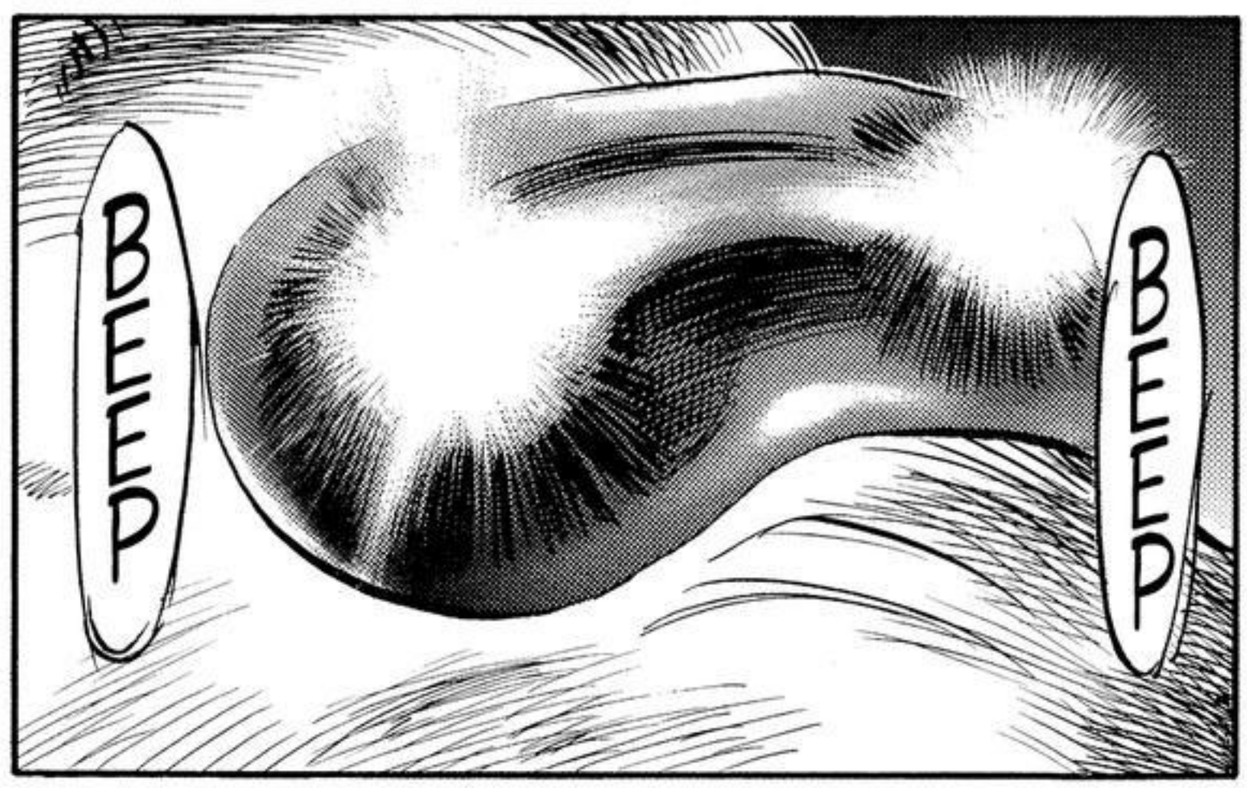


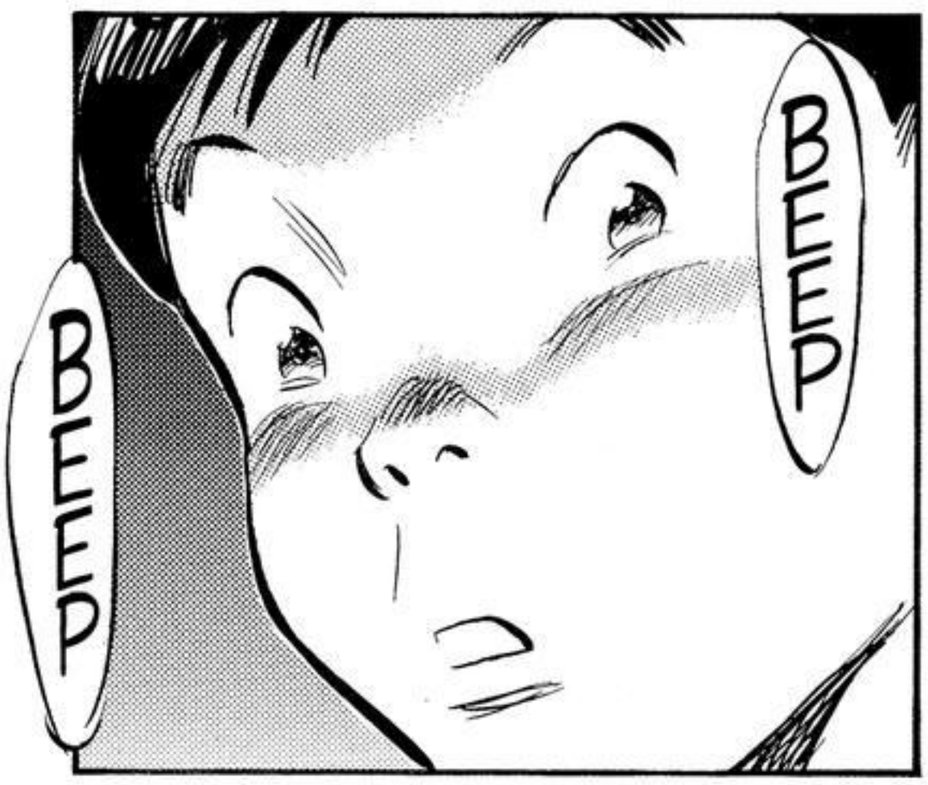
Act 25

A FINE DAY FOR A TORNADO



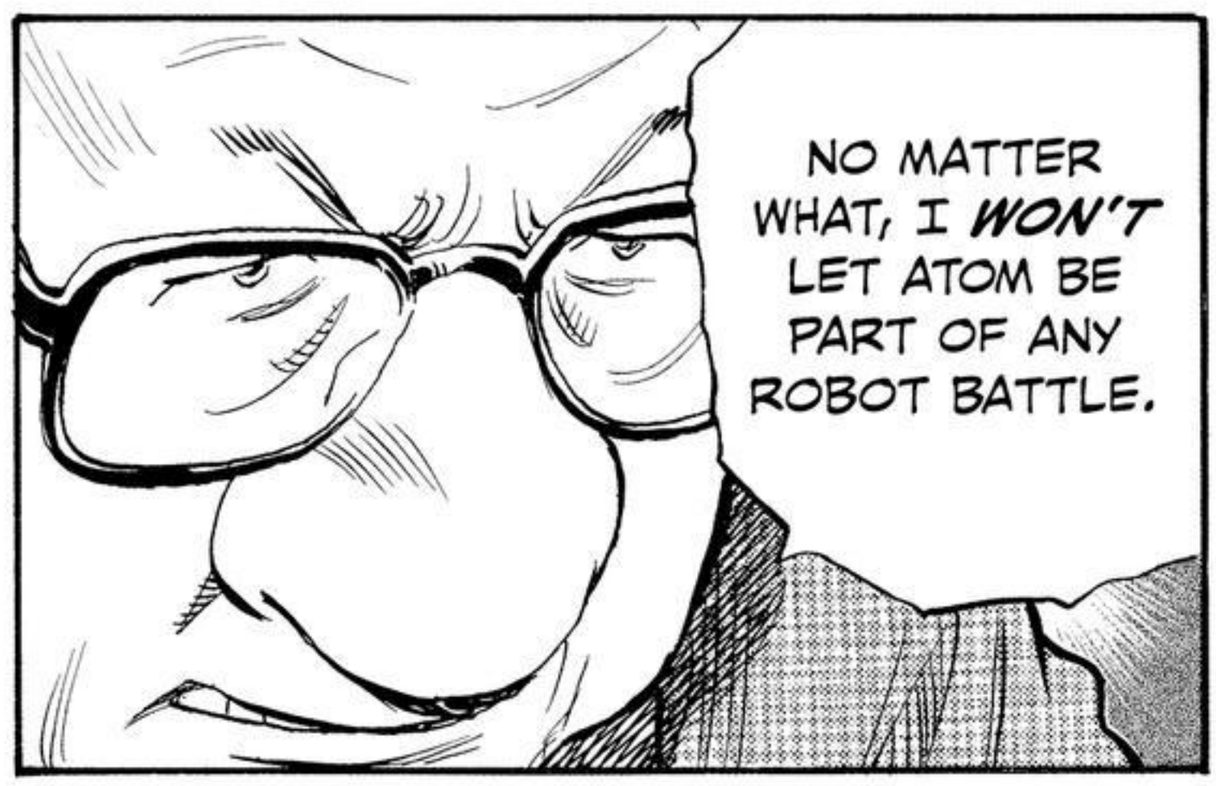






* OCHANOMIZU RESIDENCE

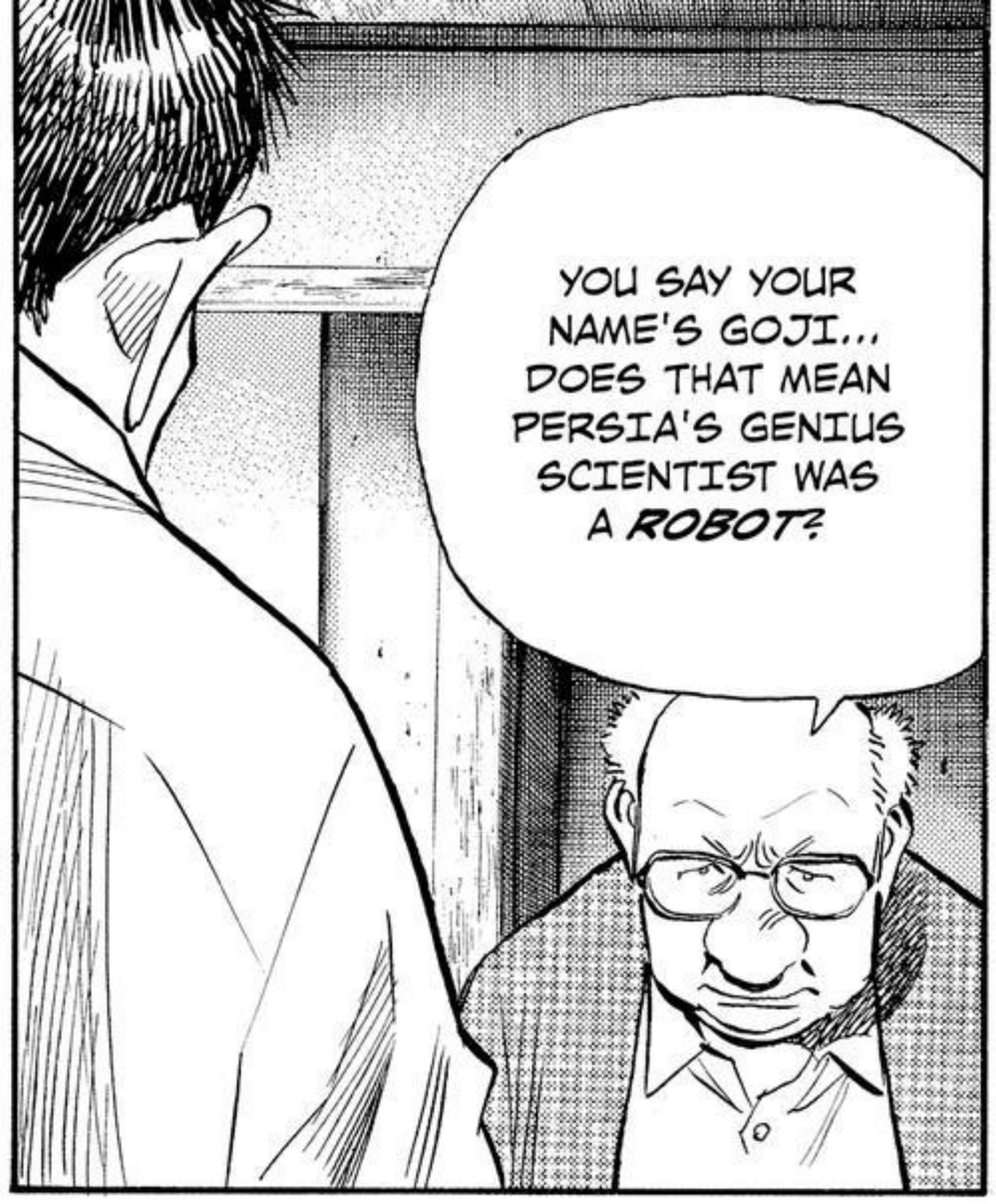
THREATENING ME WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.


NO MATTER WHAT, I *WON'T* LET ATOM BE PART OF ANY ROBOT BATTLE.

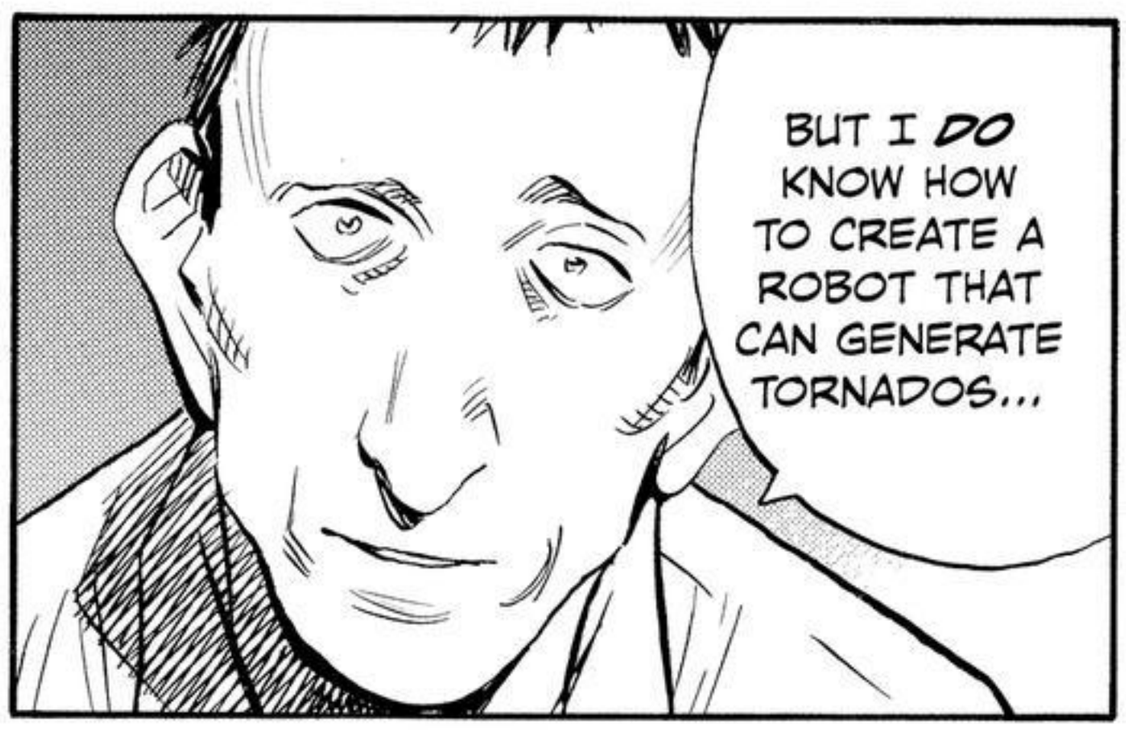
I HEAR THAT YOU LOVE YOUR GRANDSON, PROFESSOR...

IT'S "*ME NO NAKA NI IRETEMO ITAKUNAI*"... HE'S "THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE"!!
WAIT... I KNOW...

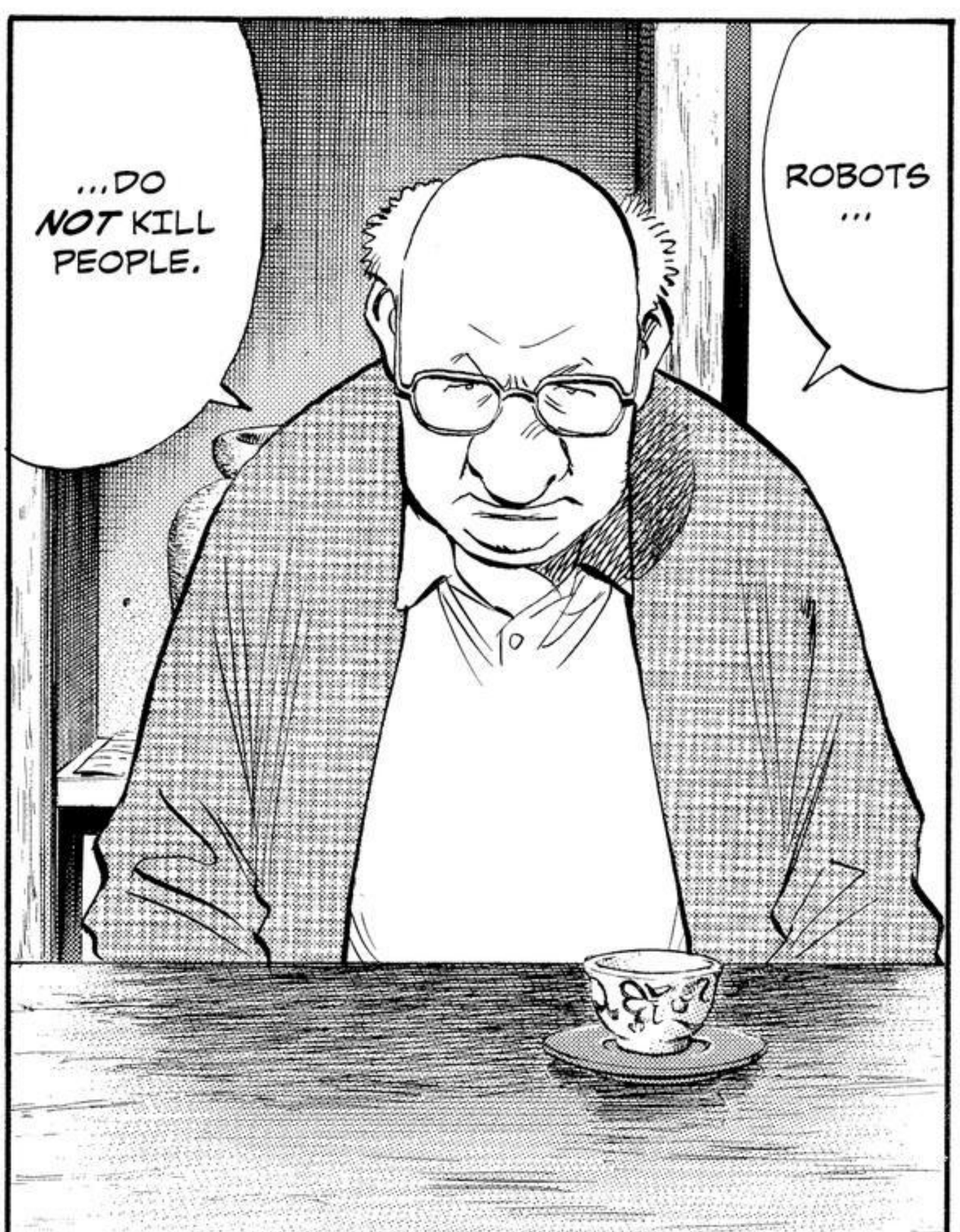
I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW THEY SAY IT IN JAPAN...

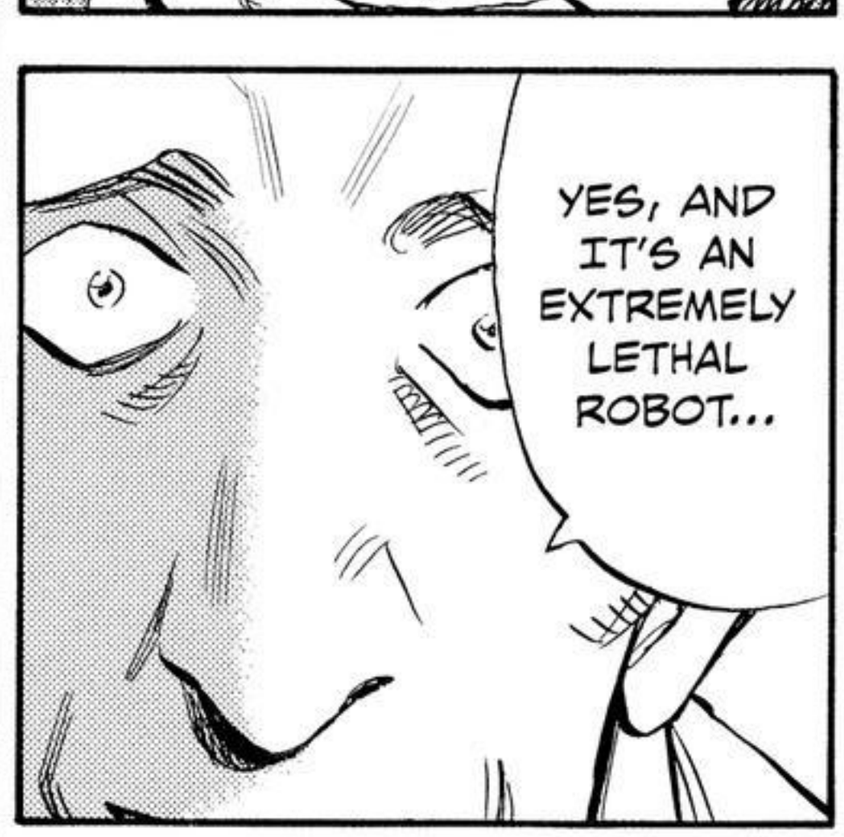

YOU SAY YOUR NAME'S GOJI... DOES THAT MEAN PERSIA'S GENIUS SCIENTIST WAS A ROBOT?

YOU'RE USING A SEARCH APPLICATION TO SPEAK JAPANESE, AREN'T YOU?
YET YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A JAPANESE MODEL...


BUT I DO KNOW HOW TO CREATE A ROBOT THAT CAN GENERATE TORNADOS...

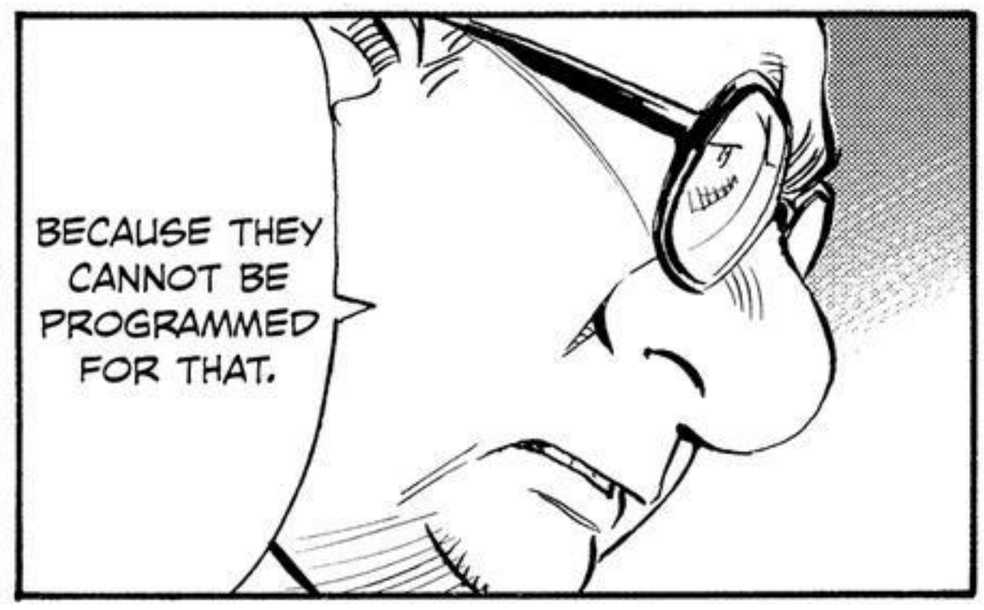
WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF I'M A GENIUS OR NOT...


ROBOTS ...
...DO NOT KILL PEOPLE.


YES, AND IT'S AN EXTREMELY LETHAL ROBOT...

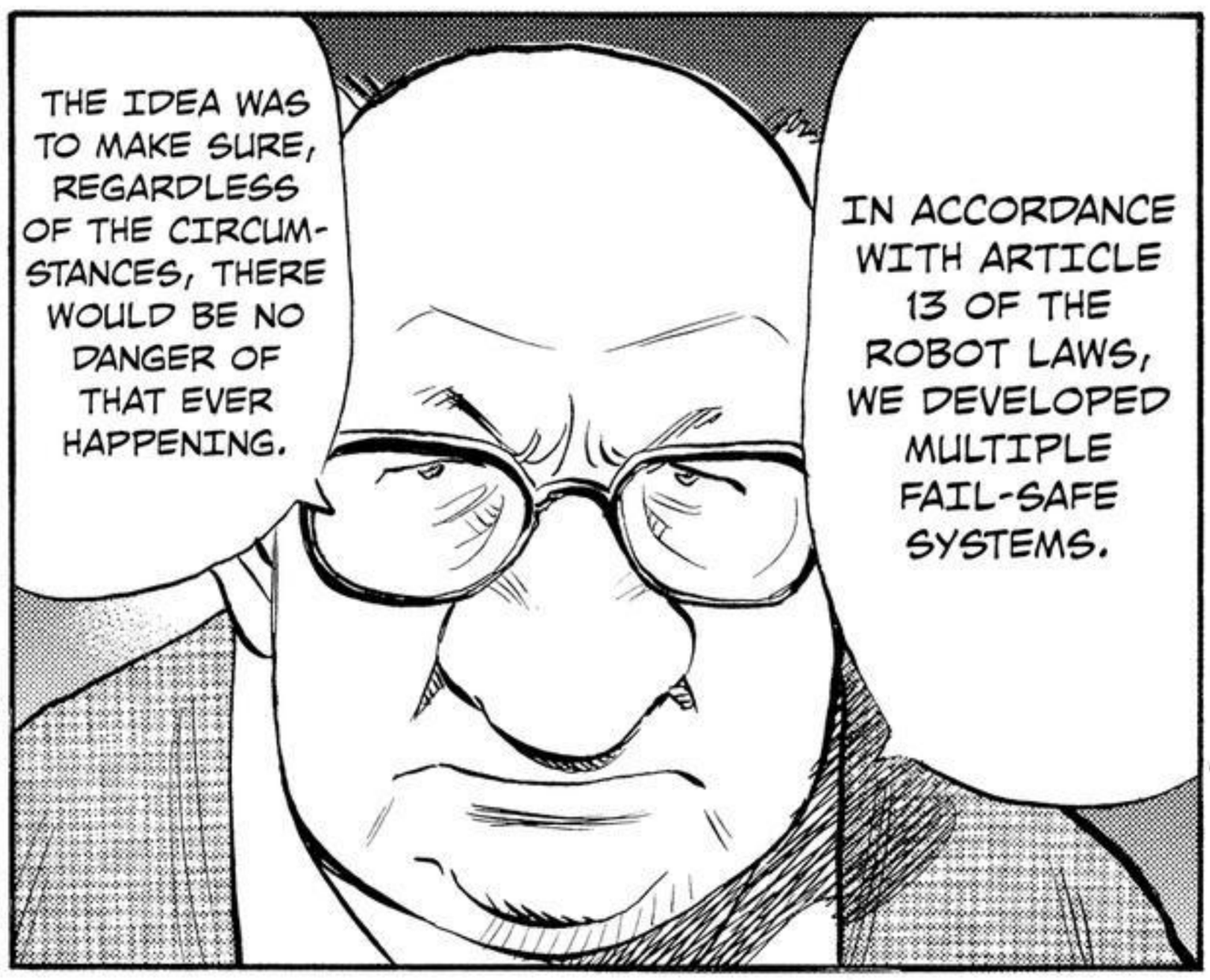
WHAT A FASCINATING NOTION...

AND WHY IS THAT?

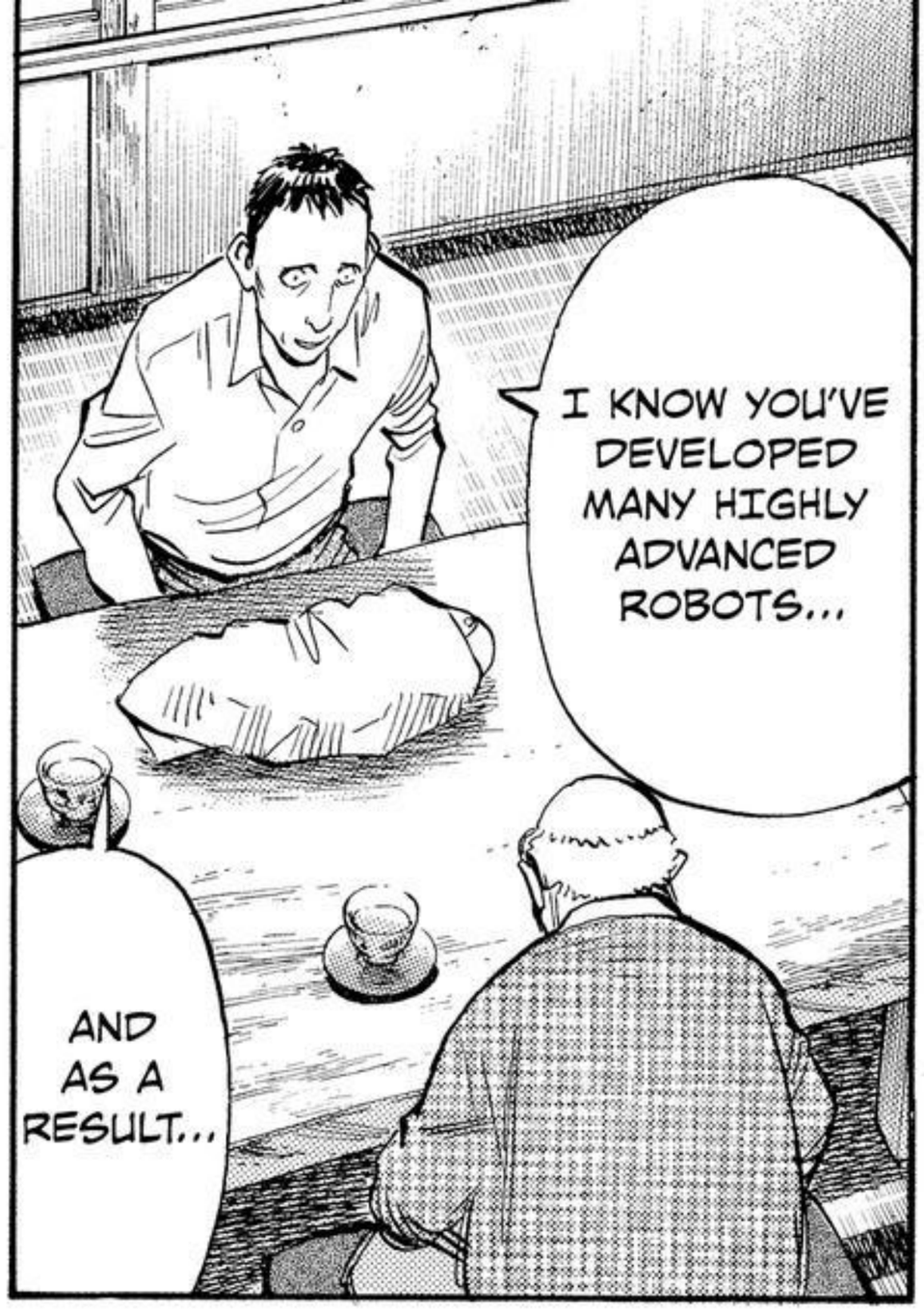

BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE PROGRAMMED FOR THAT.

SO WHY CAN'T ROBOTS KILL HUMANS?

HUMANS KILL OTHER HUMANS...


THE IDEA WAS TO MAKE SURE, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUM-STANCES, THERE WOULD BE NO DANGER OF THAT EVER HAPPENING.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13 OF THE ROBOT LAWS, WE DEVELOPED MULTIPLE FAIL-SAFE SYSTEMS.

BECAUSE THAT IS HOW WE'VE MADE THEM.

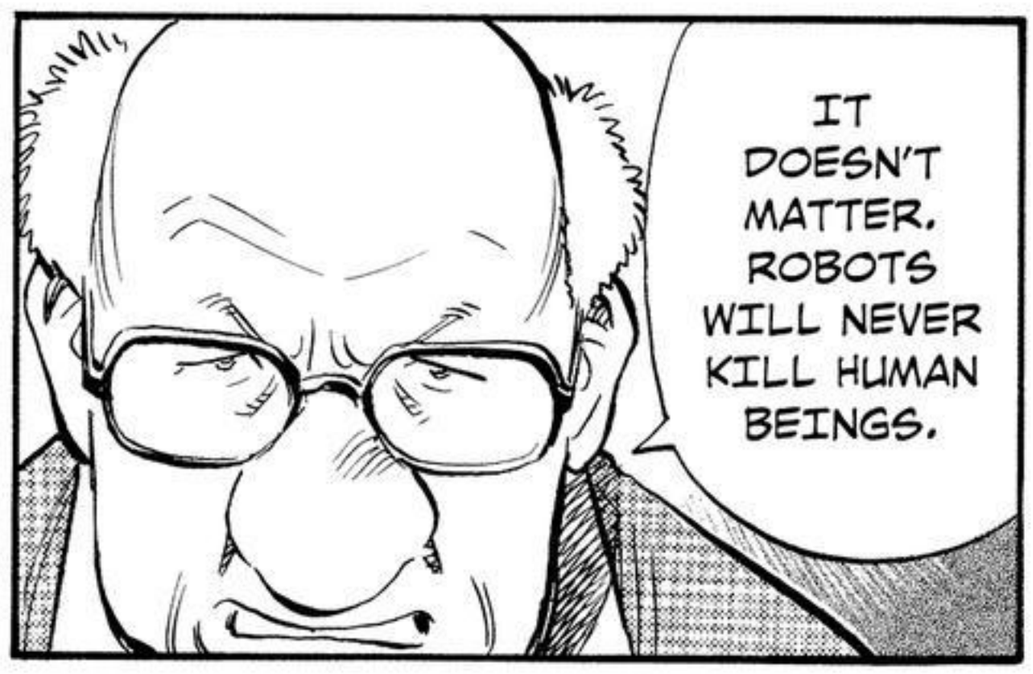

I KNOW YOU'VE DEVELOPED MANY HIGHLY ADVANCED ROBOTS...
AND AS A RESULT...

YOU'RE A TRULY AMAZING SCIENTIST!
THAT'S JUST GREAT!

BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS WHEN THEY BECOME ALMOST HUMAN?

...ROBOTS HAVE BECOME ALMOST INDISTIN-GUISHABLE FROM HUMANS.

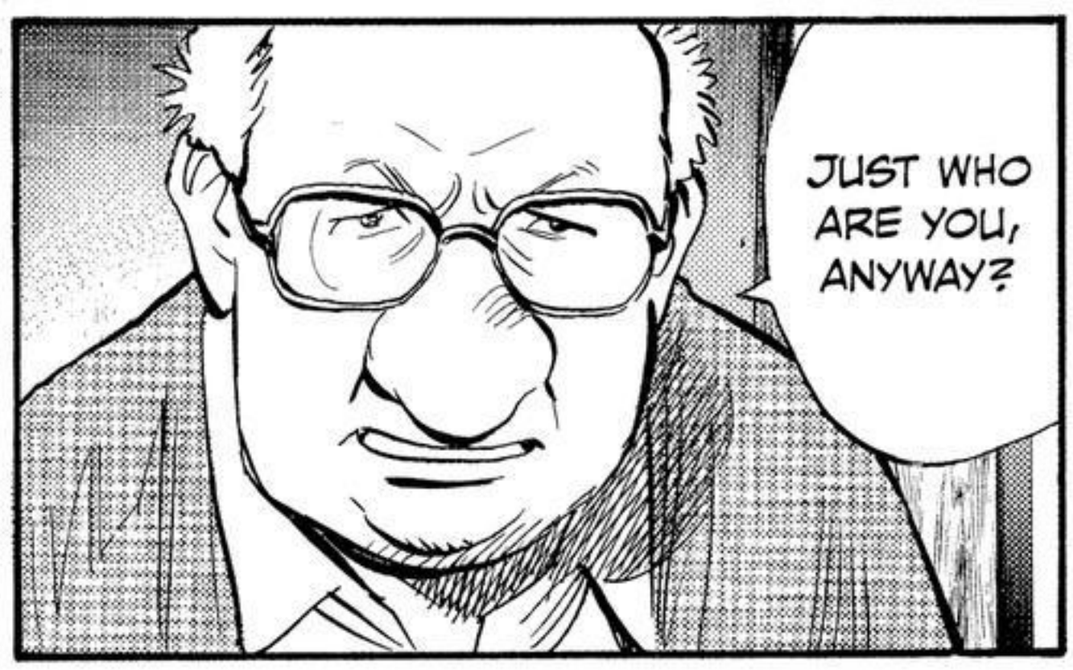
...A BELIEF IN THE FUNDAMENTAL GOODNESS OF MAN...
HEH HEH HEH... IN JAPANESE YOU CALL THAT *SEIZENSETSU*, RIGHT?


IT DOESN'T MATTER. ROBOTS WILL NEVER KILL HUMAN BEINGS.

HEH HEH ...

WHY DON'T *I* KILL YOU...?

REGARDLESS, SHALL WE PUT IT TO A TEST RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW...?

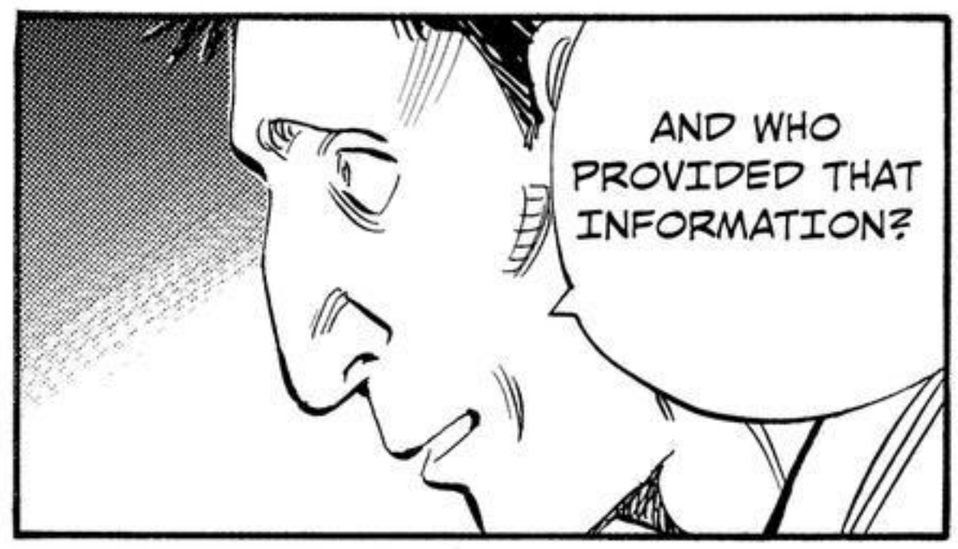


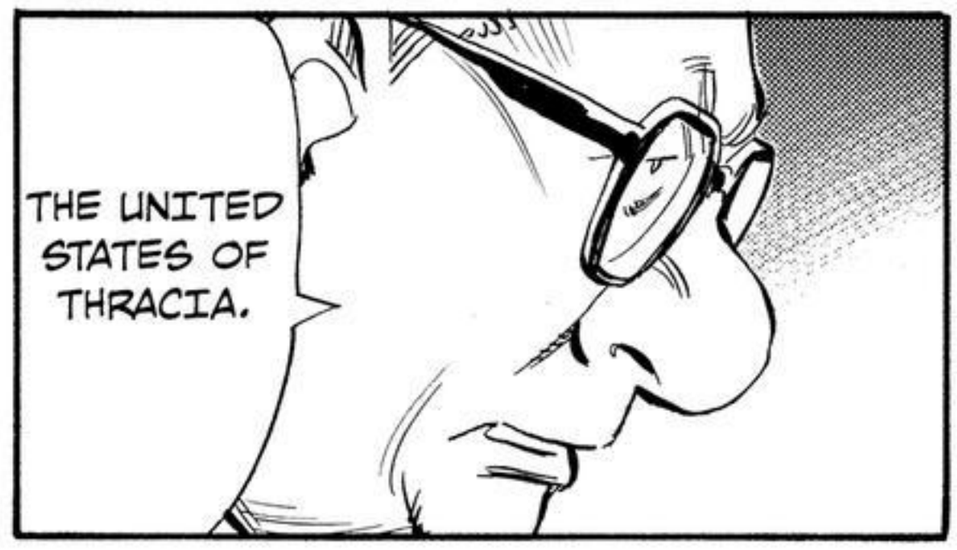
SOME OF THESE ROBOTS WERE SAID TO BE POTENTIAL ***WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION*** ...

RUMOR HAD IT THAT HE BUILT AN ARMY OF ADVANCED ROBOTS FOR THE KINGDOM OF PERSIA...

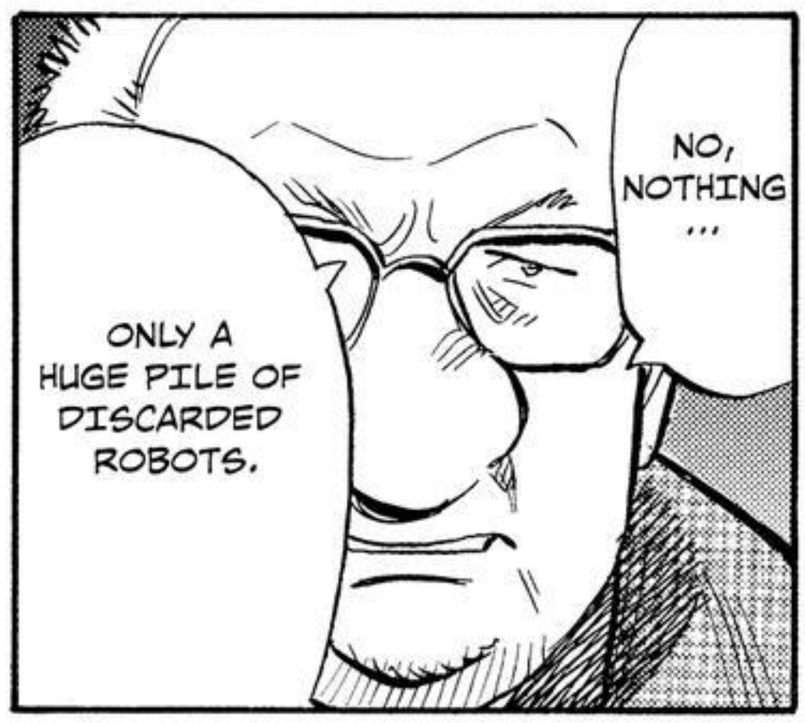
IT WAS THE RUMORS ABOUT PROFESSOR GOJI THAT STARTED THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR...

AND IS EVERYTHING THRACIA SAYS ALWAYS CORRECT?
THAT'S WHY WE FORMED THE SURVEY GROUP. TO FIND OUT...


AND WHO PROVIDED THAT INFORMATION?

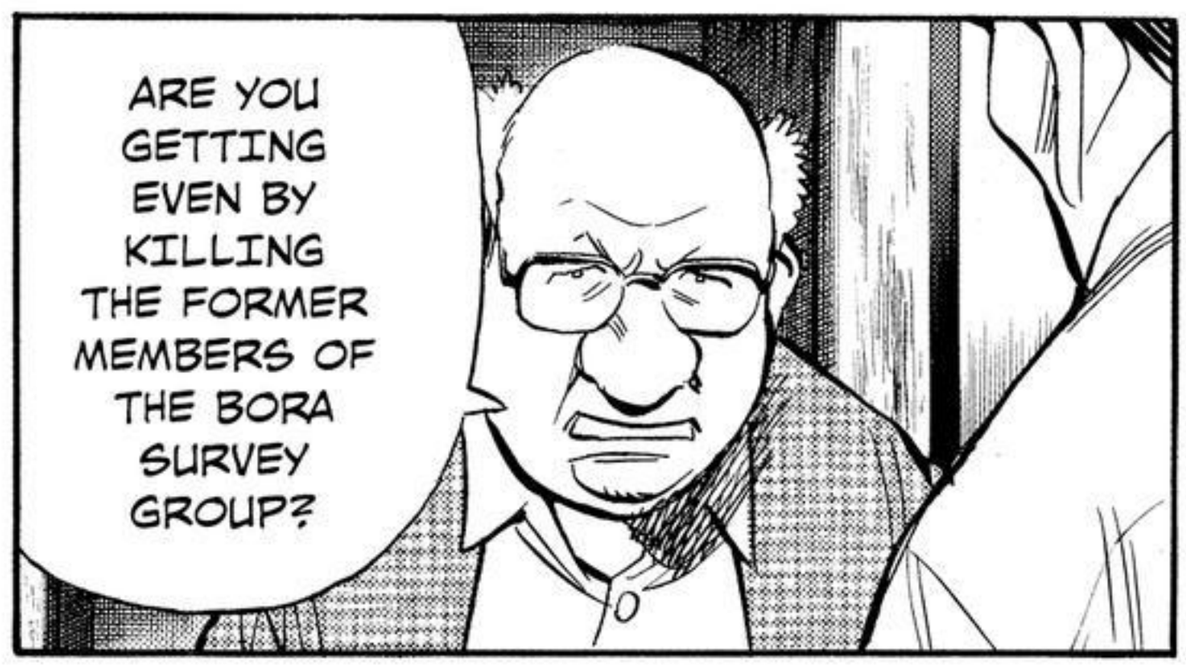

THE UNITED STATES OF THRACIA.

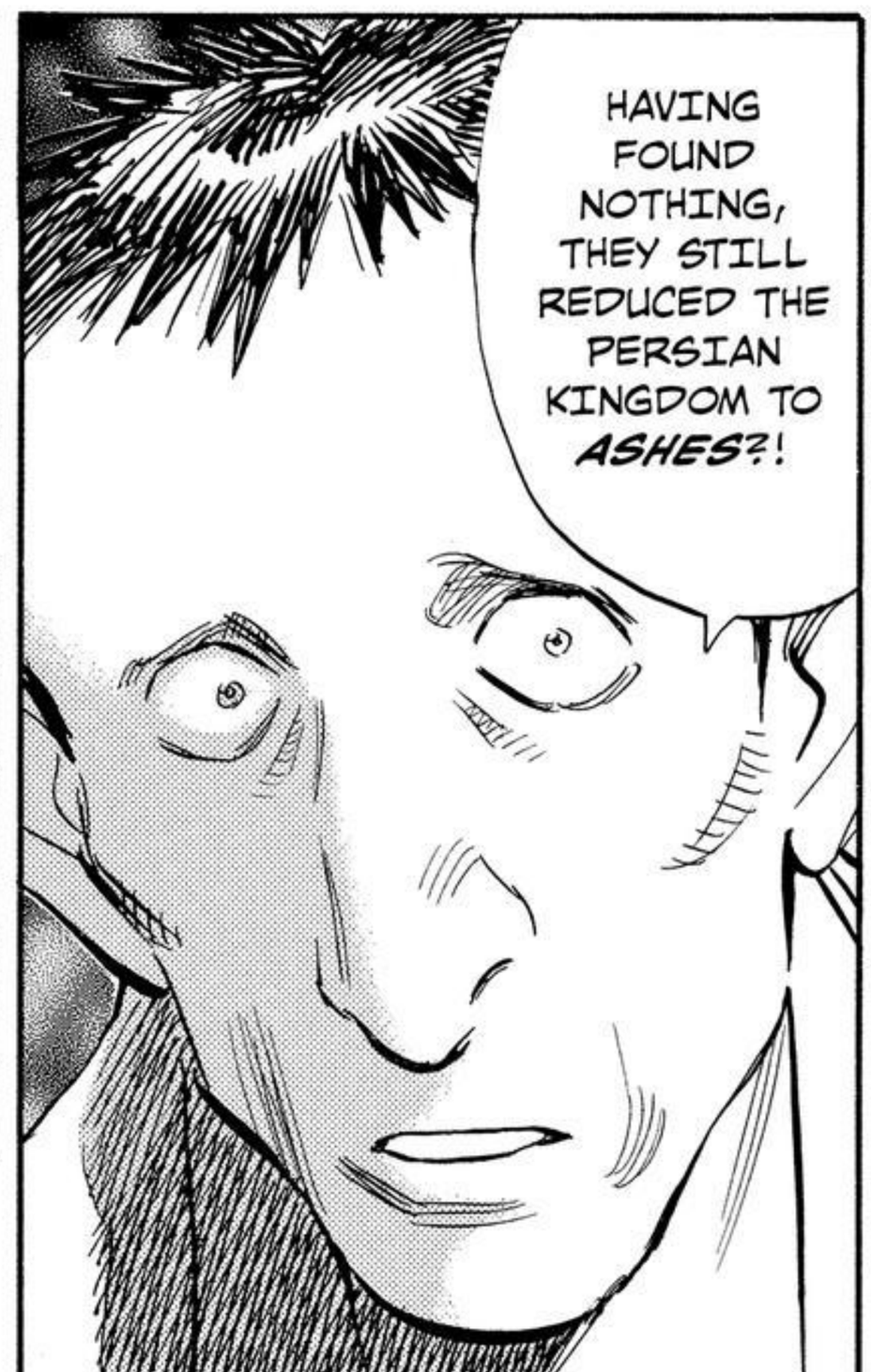
SO THE UNITED STATES OF THRACIA WENT TO WAR, EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING?


ONLY A HUGE PILE OF DISCARDED ROBOTS.
NO, NOTHING ...

WELL? DID YOU FIND ANY-THING?

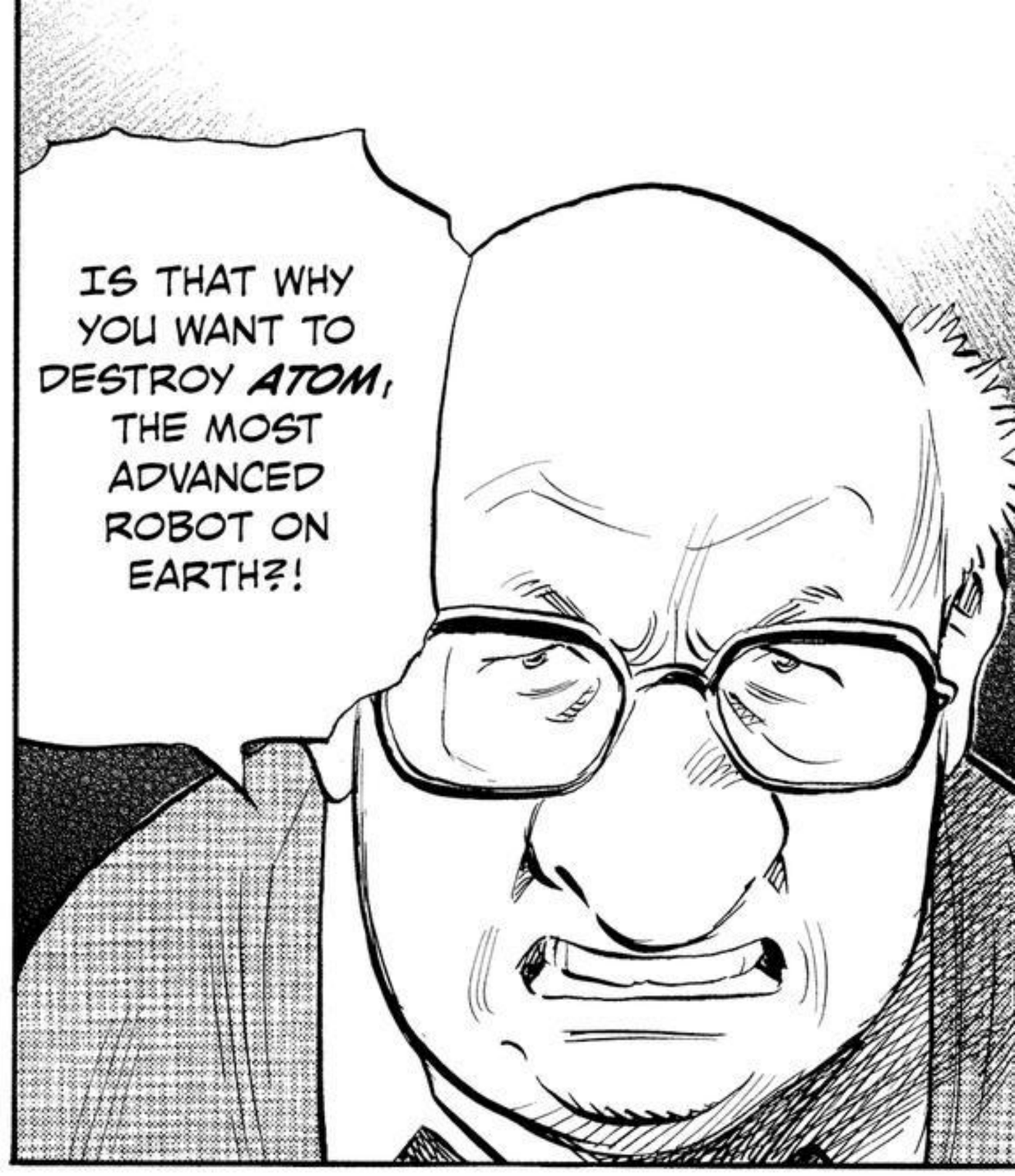
SO YOU'RE OUT FOR REVENGE?

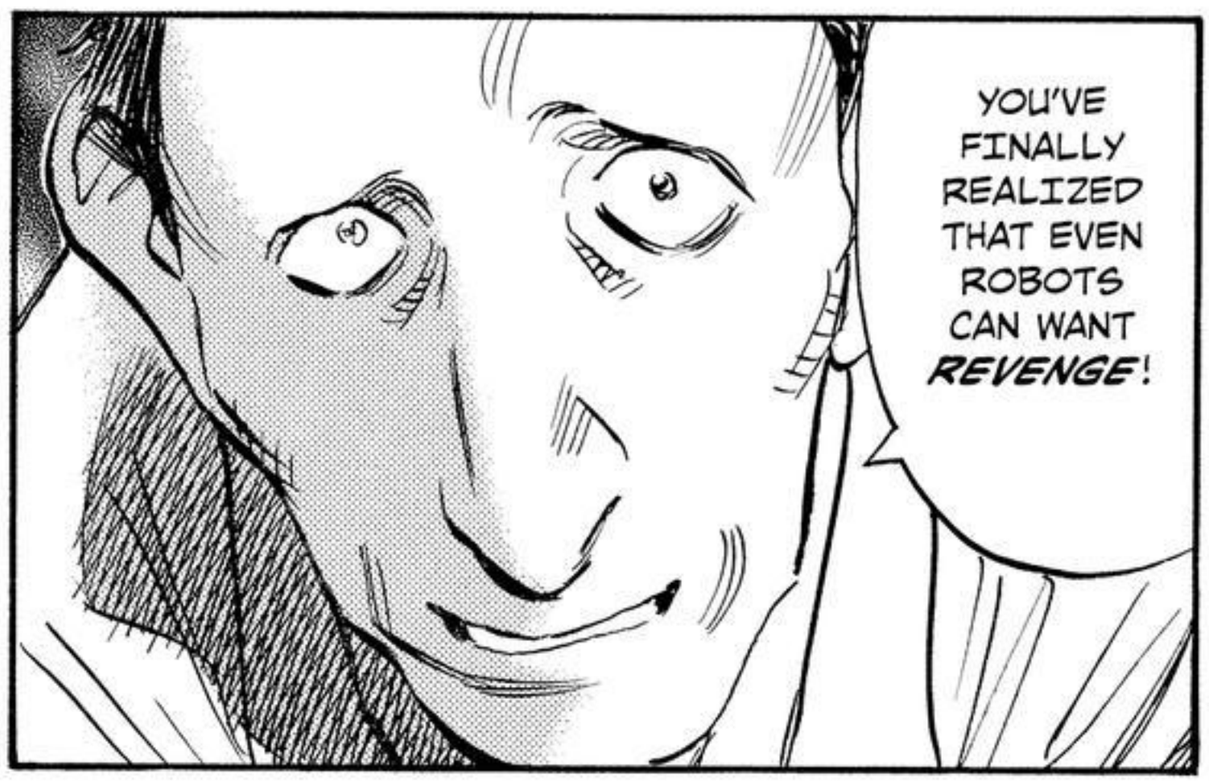

ARE YOU GETTING EVEN BY KILLING THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP?


HAVING FOUND NOTHING, THEY STILL REDUCED THE PERSIAN KINGDOM TO *ASHES*?!

HEH HEH HEH ...

LOOK AT YOU...


IS THAT WHY YOU WANT TO DESTROY *ATOM*, THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT ON EARTH?!

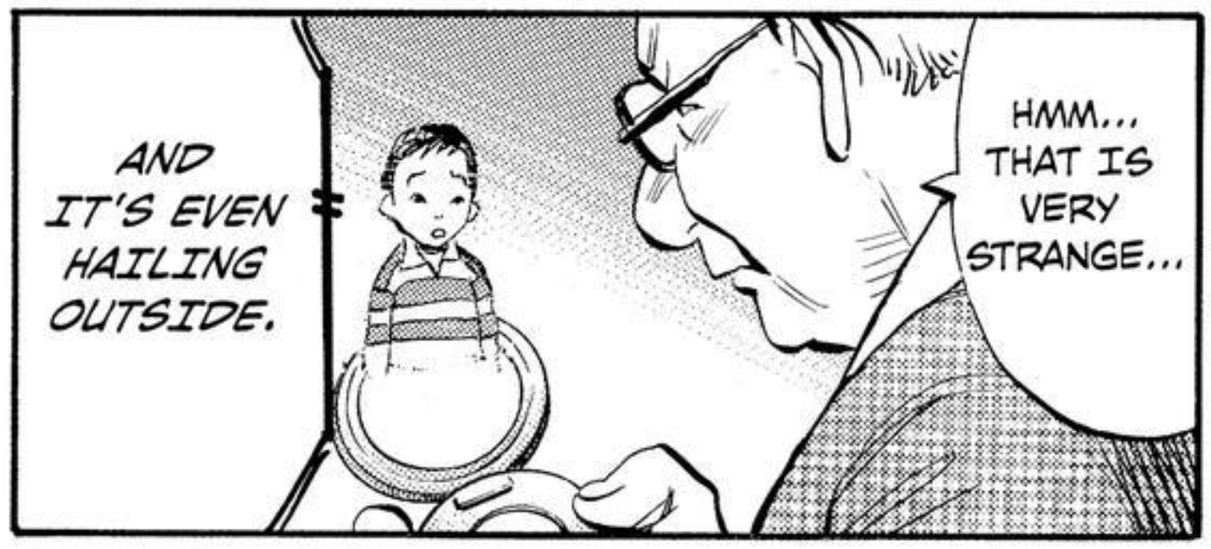

YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED THAT EVEN ROBOTS CAN WANT *REVENGE*!

SO YOU *DO* GET IT...

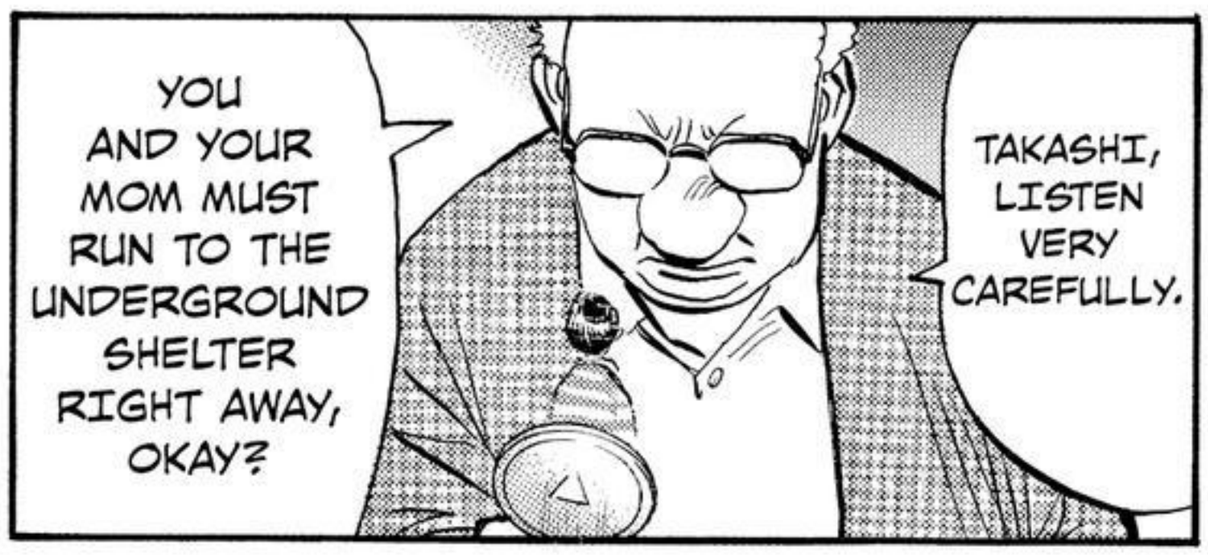
BLIP
HEH HEH HEH ...

HI, GRAMPA ...
TAKA-SHI?

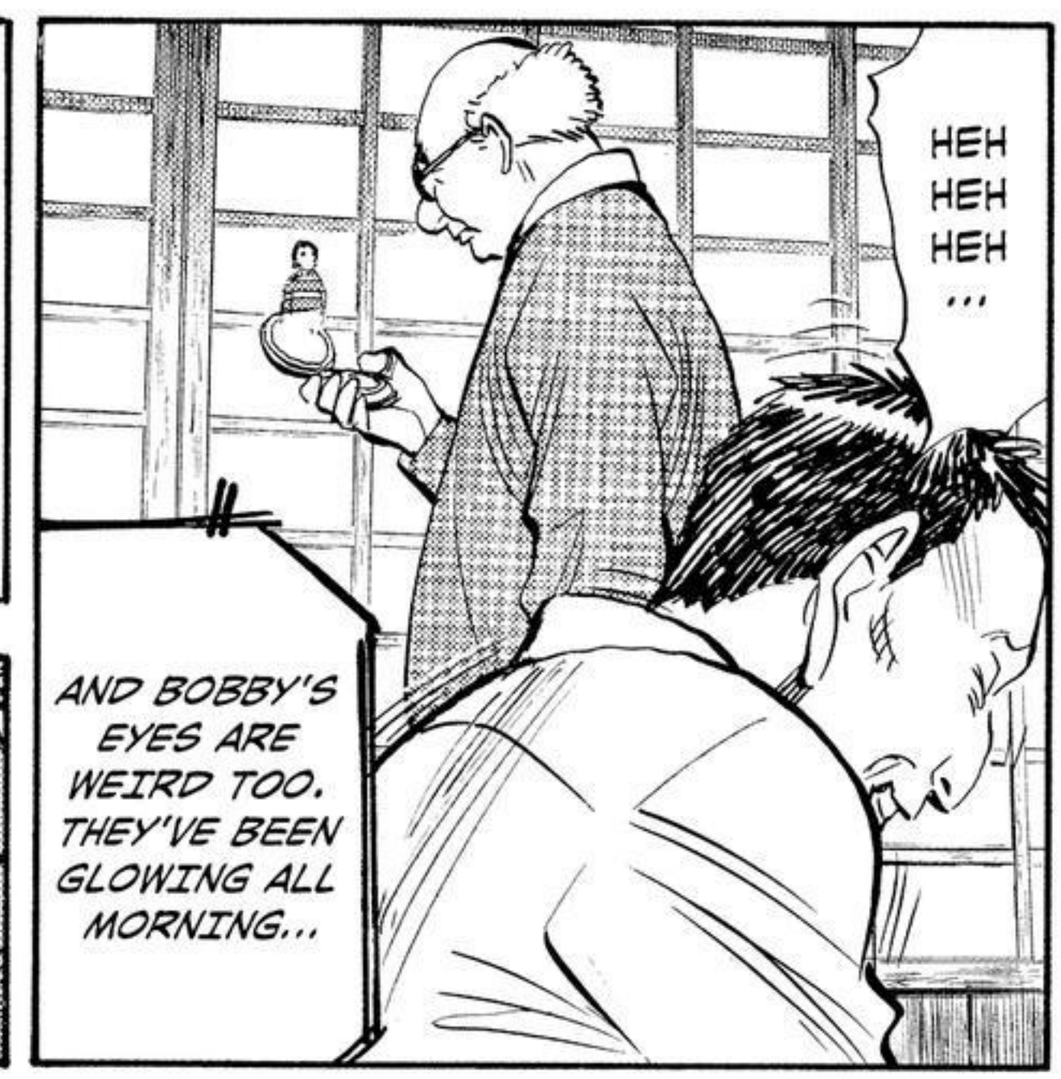
HA HA HA!

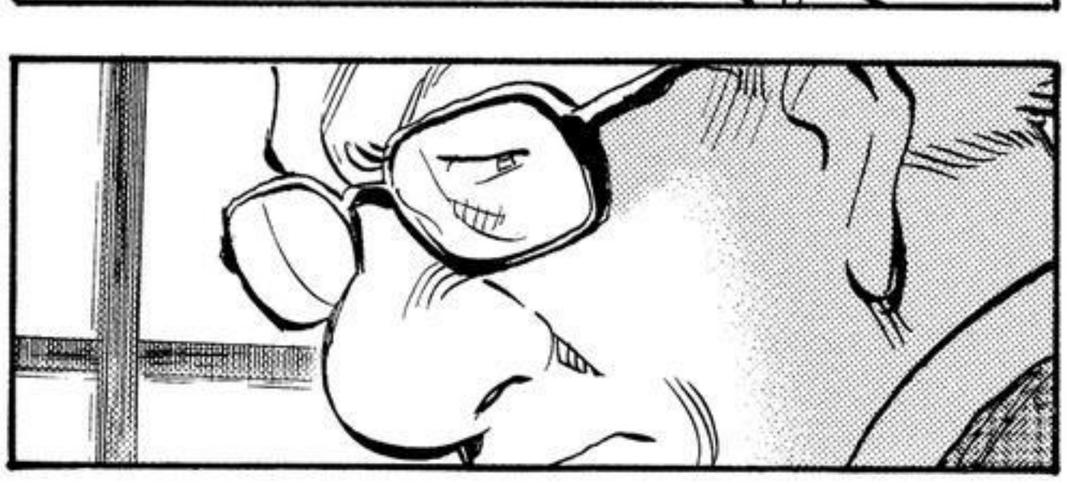

AND IT'S EVEN HAILING OUTSIDE.
HMM... THAT IS VERY STRANGE...

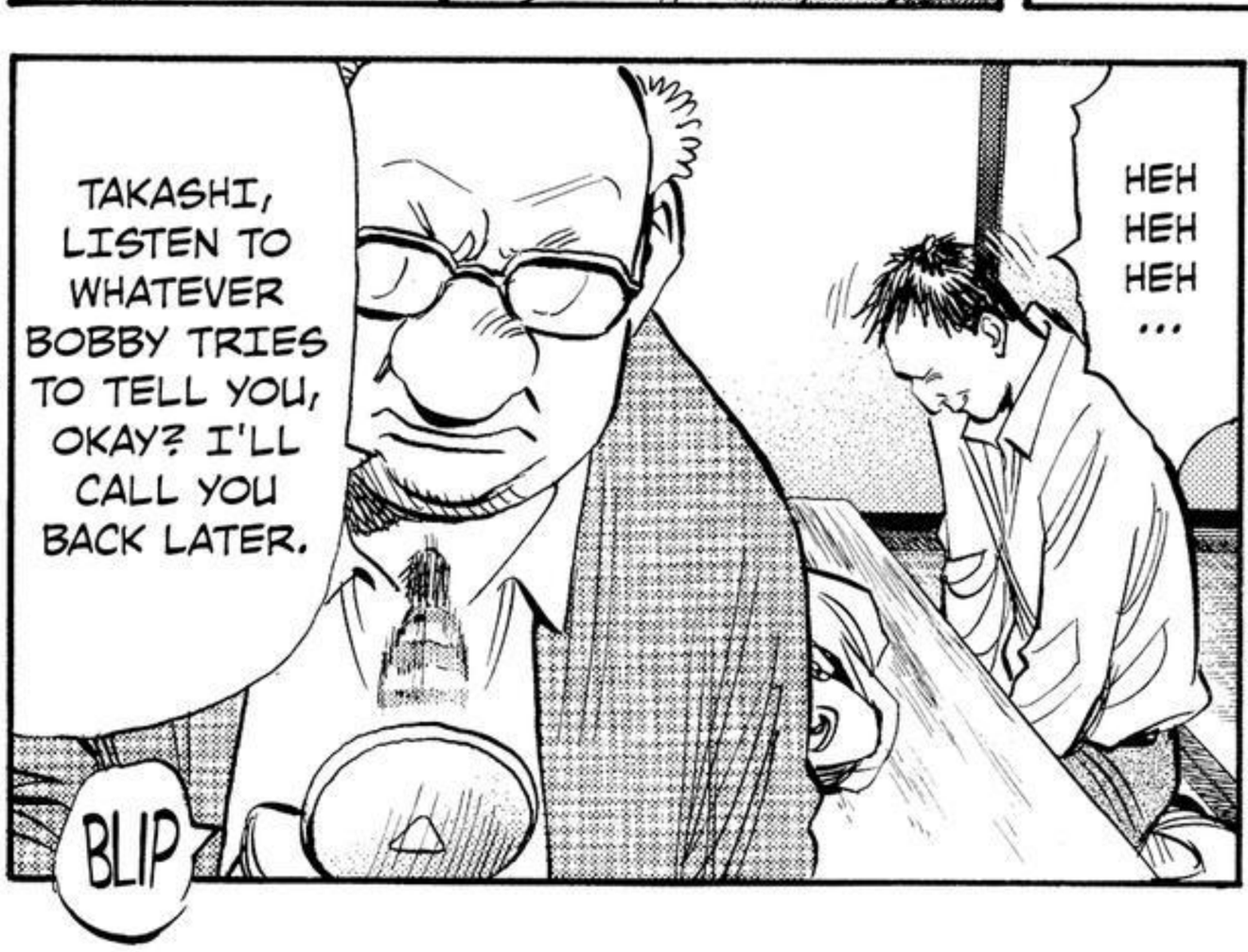
GRAMPA, LISTEN...
IT'S THE WEIRDEST THING... BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A TORNADO THAT JUST STAYS IN ONE PLACE?


YOU AND YOUR MOM MUST RUN TO THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY, OKAY?
TAKASHI, LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.

HEH HEH HEH ...
NO WAY AROUND IT, PROFESSOR... YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SUMMON ATOM...

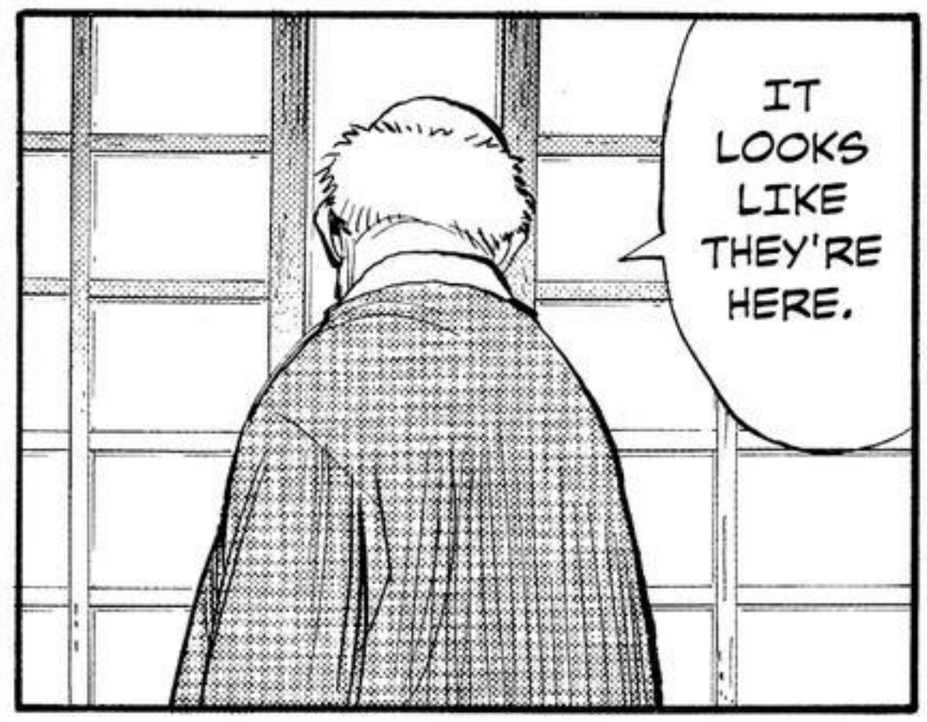

HEH HEH HEH ...
AND BOBBY'S EYES ARE WEIRD TOO. THEY'VE BEEN GLOWING ALL MORNING...

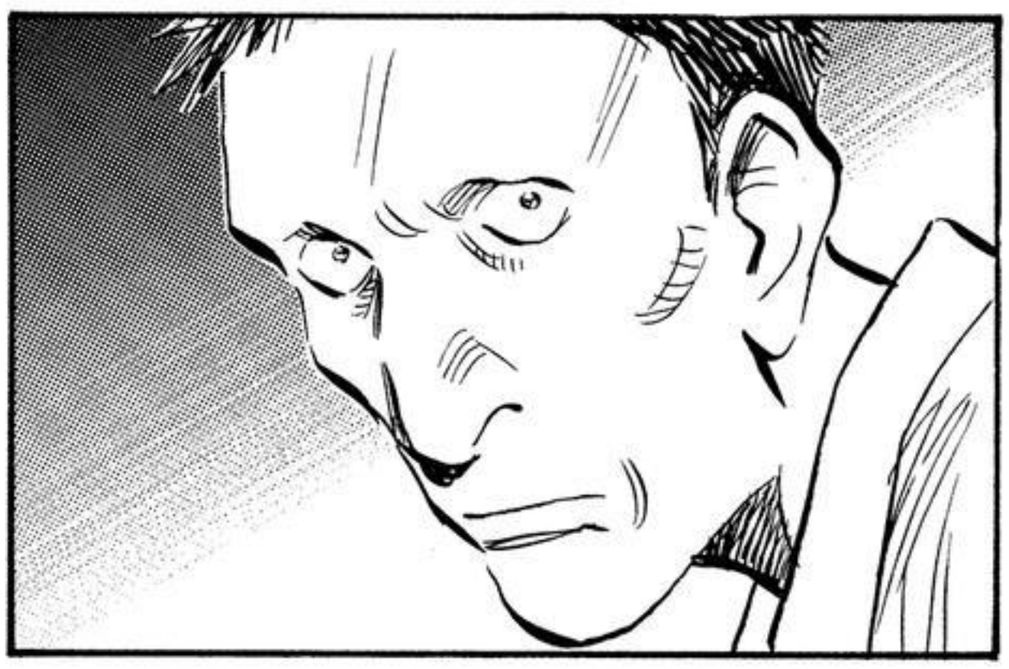


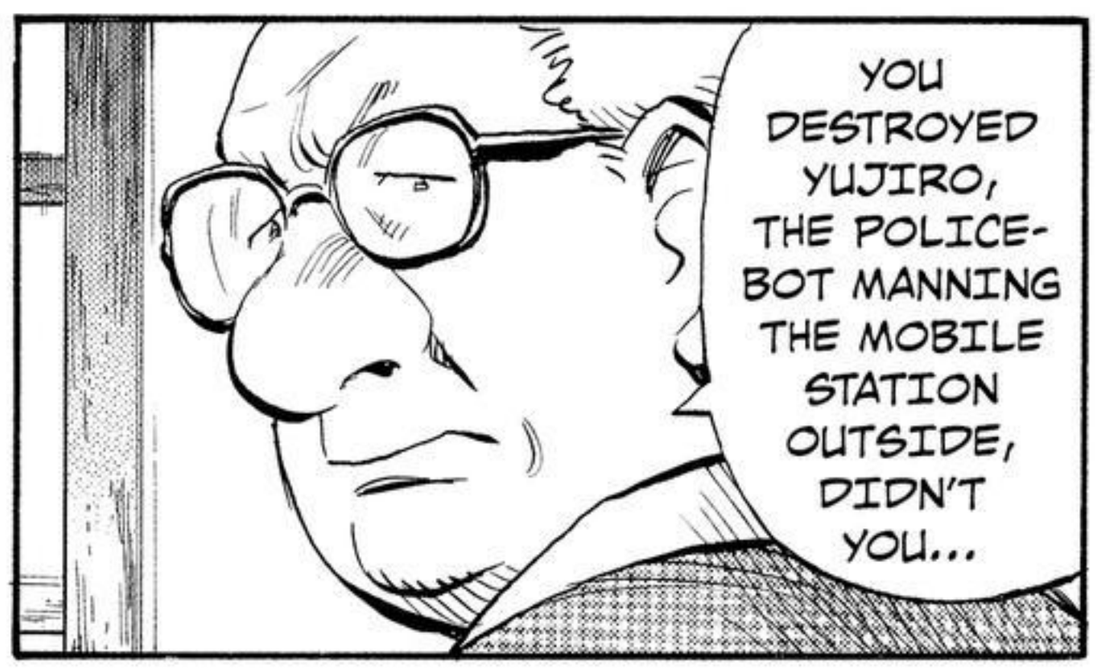

TAKASHI, LISTEN TO WHATEVER BOBBY TRIES TO TELL YOU, OKAY? I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER.
HEH HEH HEH ...
BLIP

AN AMAZING BATTLE'S ABOUT TO BEGIN...

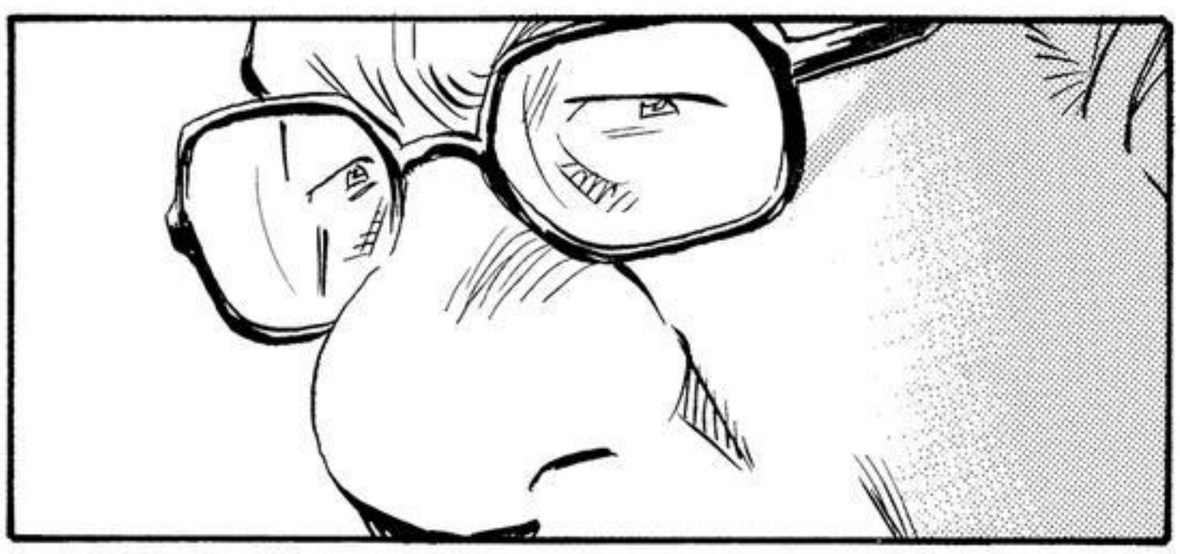
SHUF
IT'S THE *POLICE.*


IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HERE.

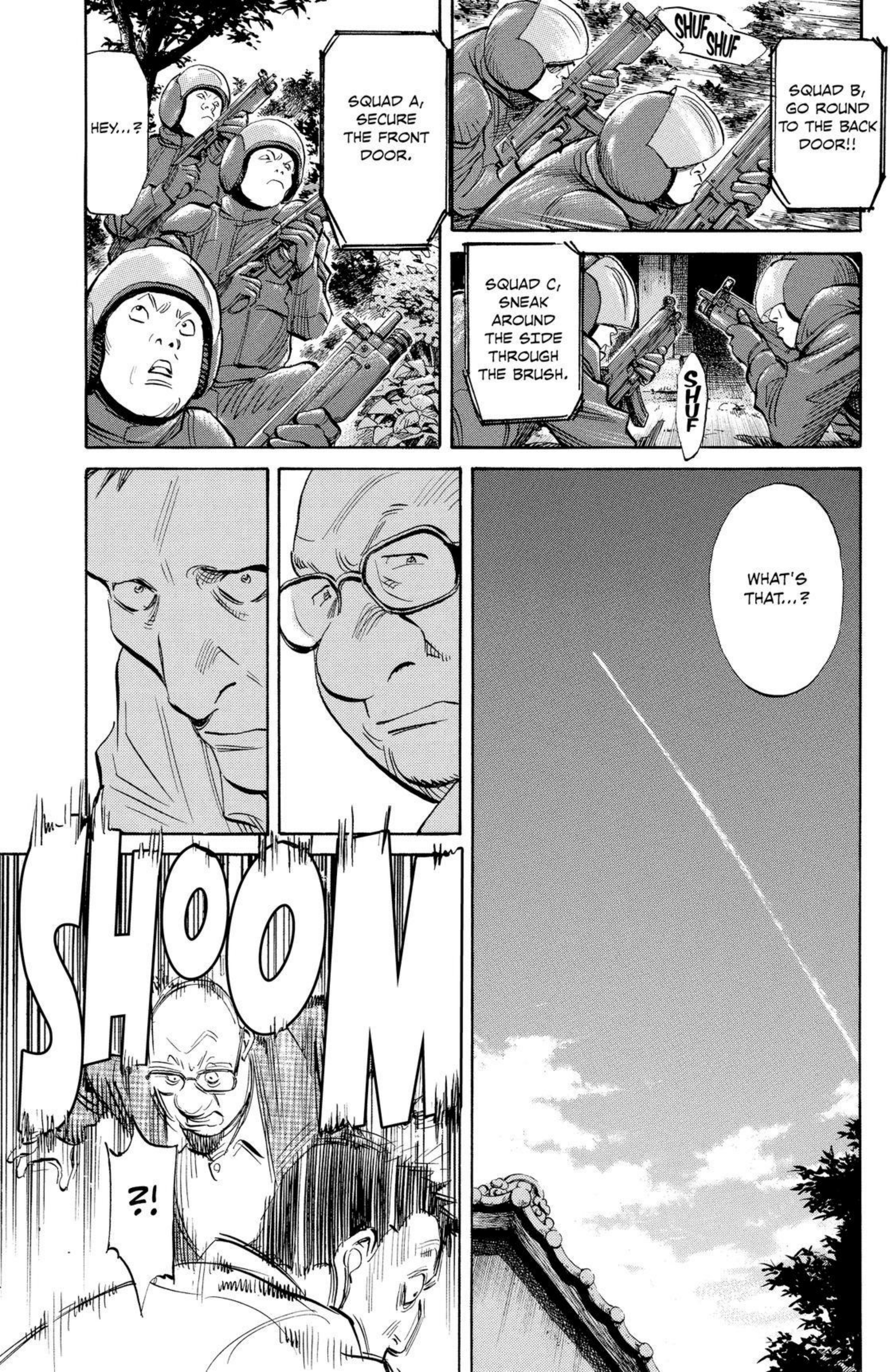



YOU DESTROYED YUJIRO, THE POLICE-BOT MANNING THE MOBILE STATION OUTSIDE, DIDN'T YOU...

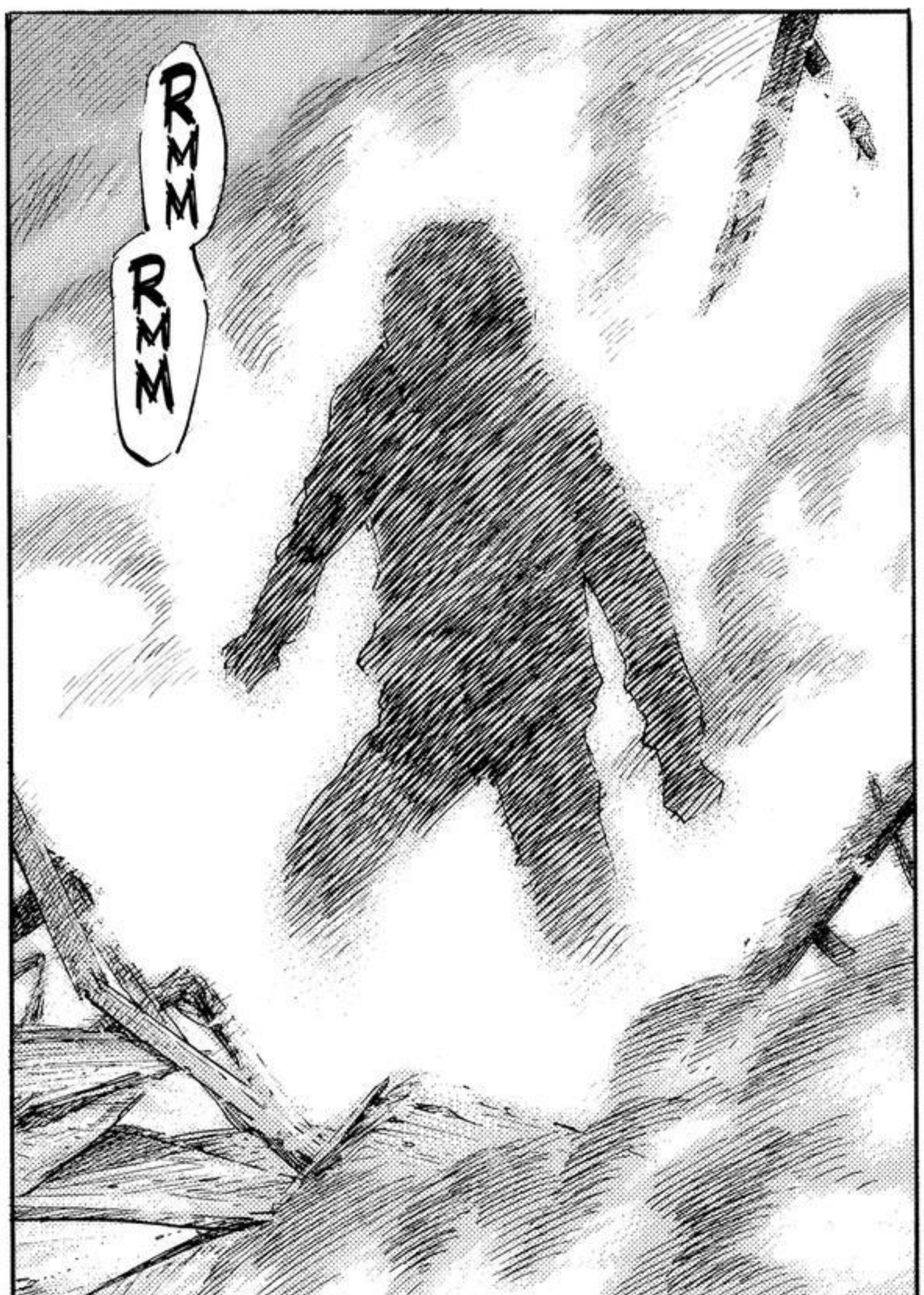
I KNOW YOU'RE STALLING FOR TIME, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...

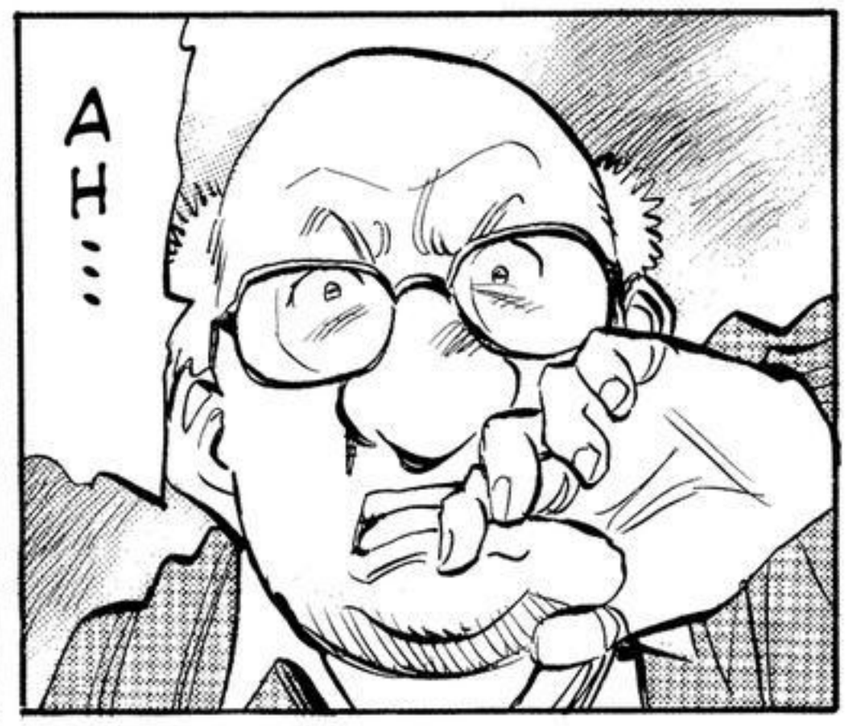


THE POLICE ARE AUTOMATICALLY DISPATCHED THE MOMENT HIS TRANSMISSIONS STOP.

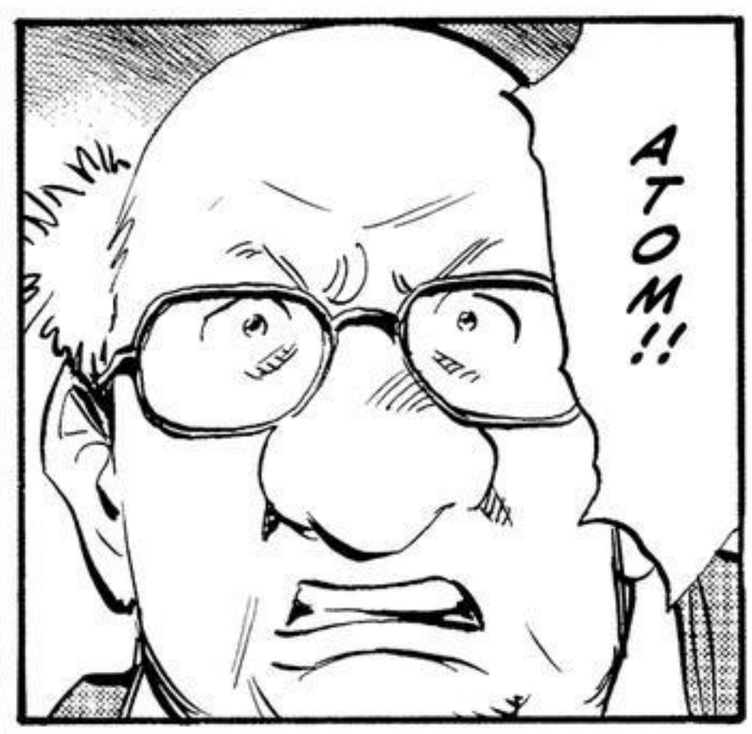

HEY...?
SQUAD A, SECURE THE FRONT DOOR.
SHUF SHUF
SQUAD B, GO ROUND TO THE BACK DOOR!!
SQUAD C, SNEAK AROUND THE SIDE THROUGH THE BRUSH.
SHUF
WHAT'S THAT...?
SHOOM
?!

CRASH



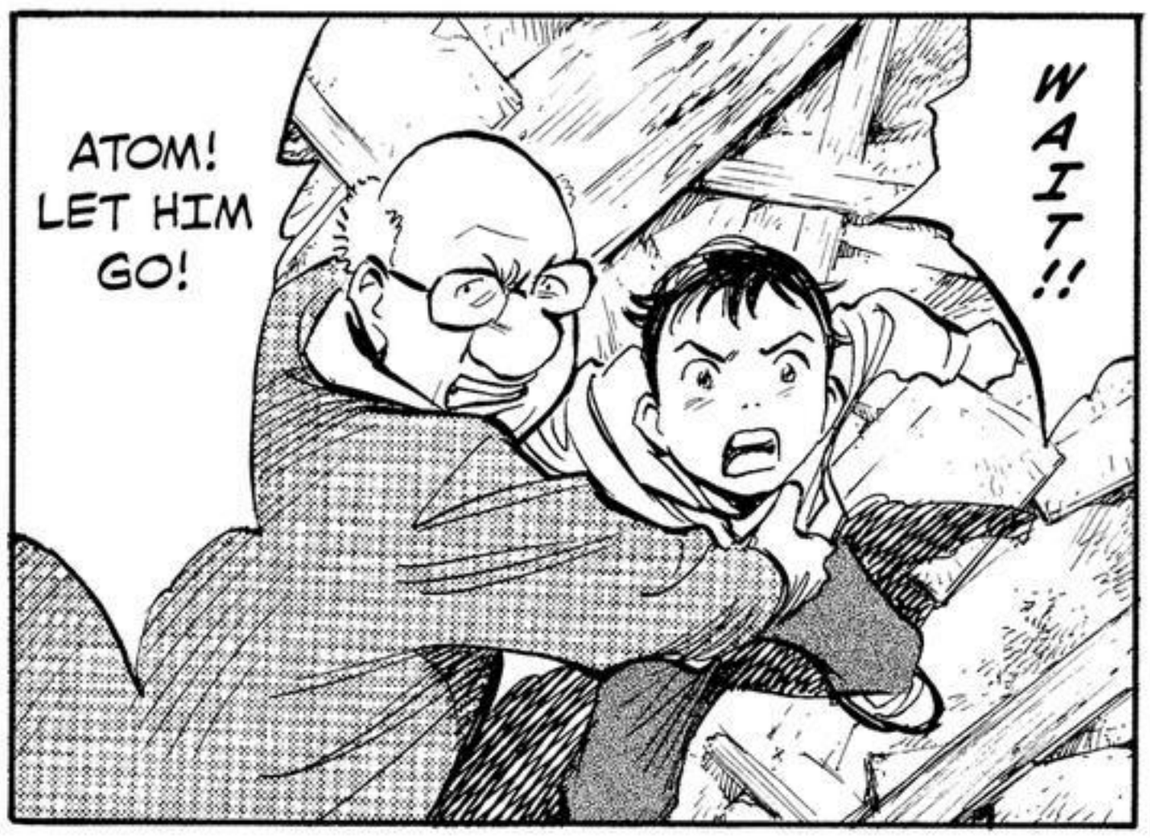


PROFES-
SOR!

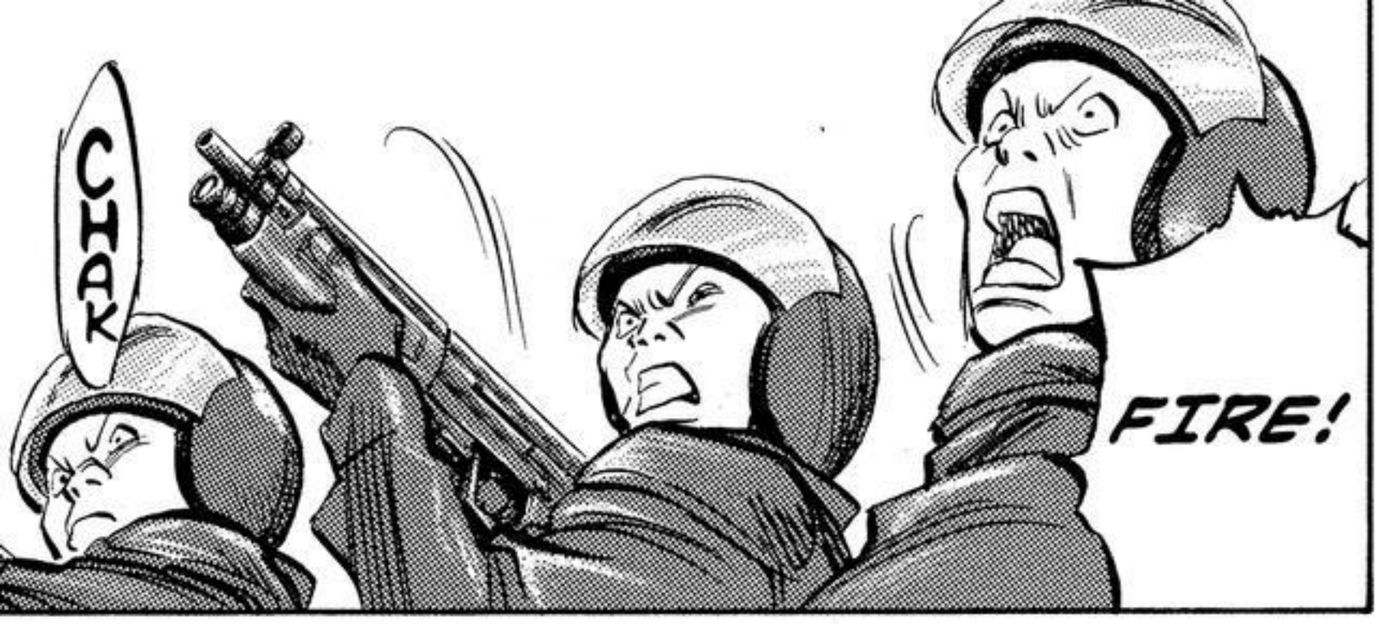


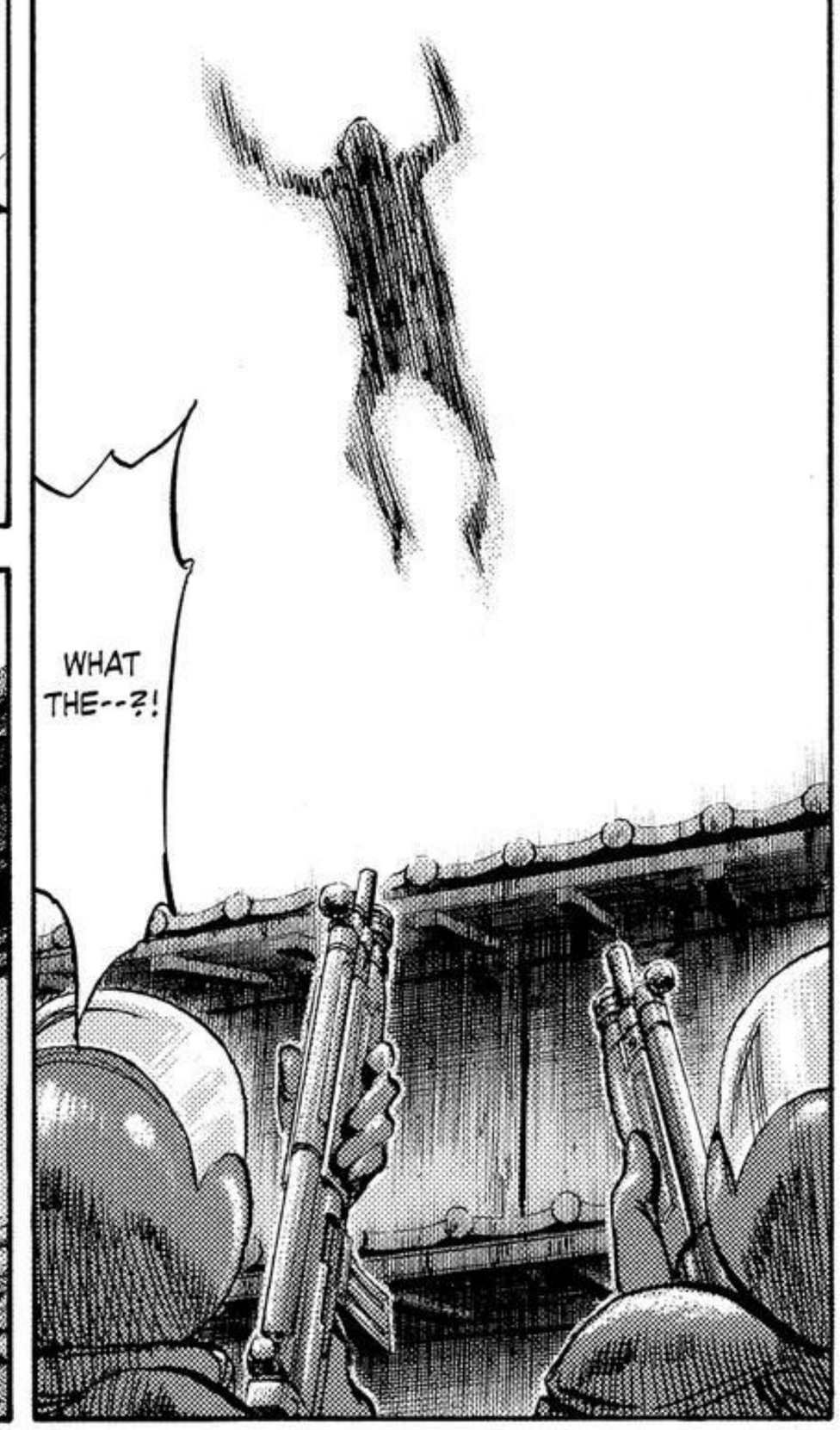
SWOOP
!!

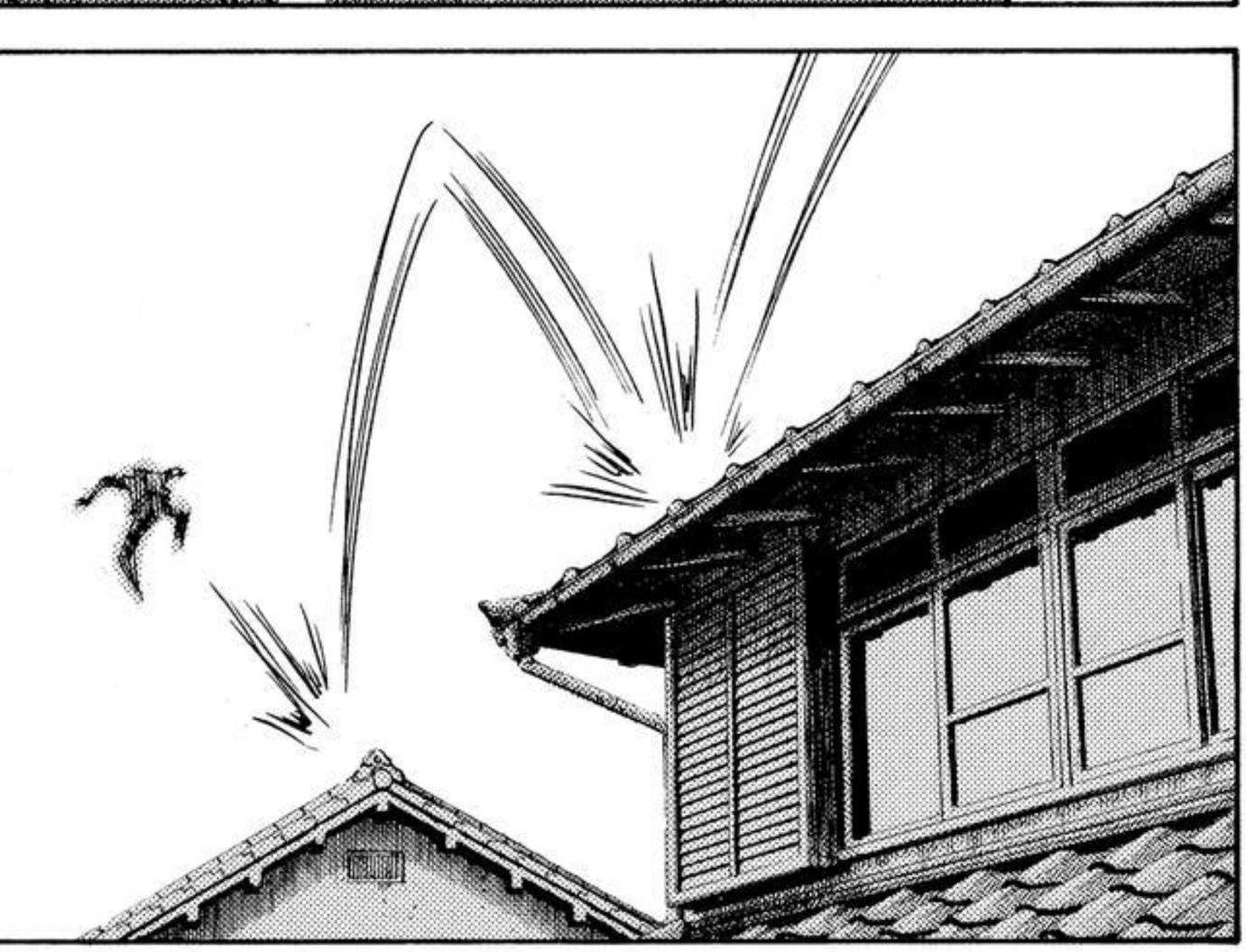
WAIT!


ATOM! LET HIM GO!
WAIT!!

FOOSH


CHAK
FIRE!

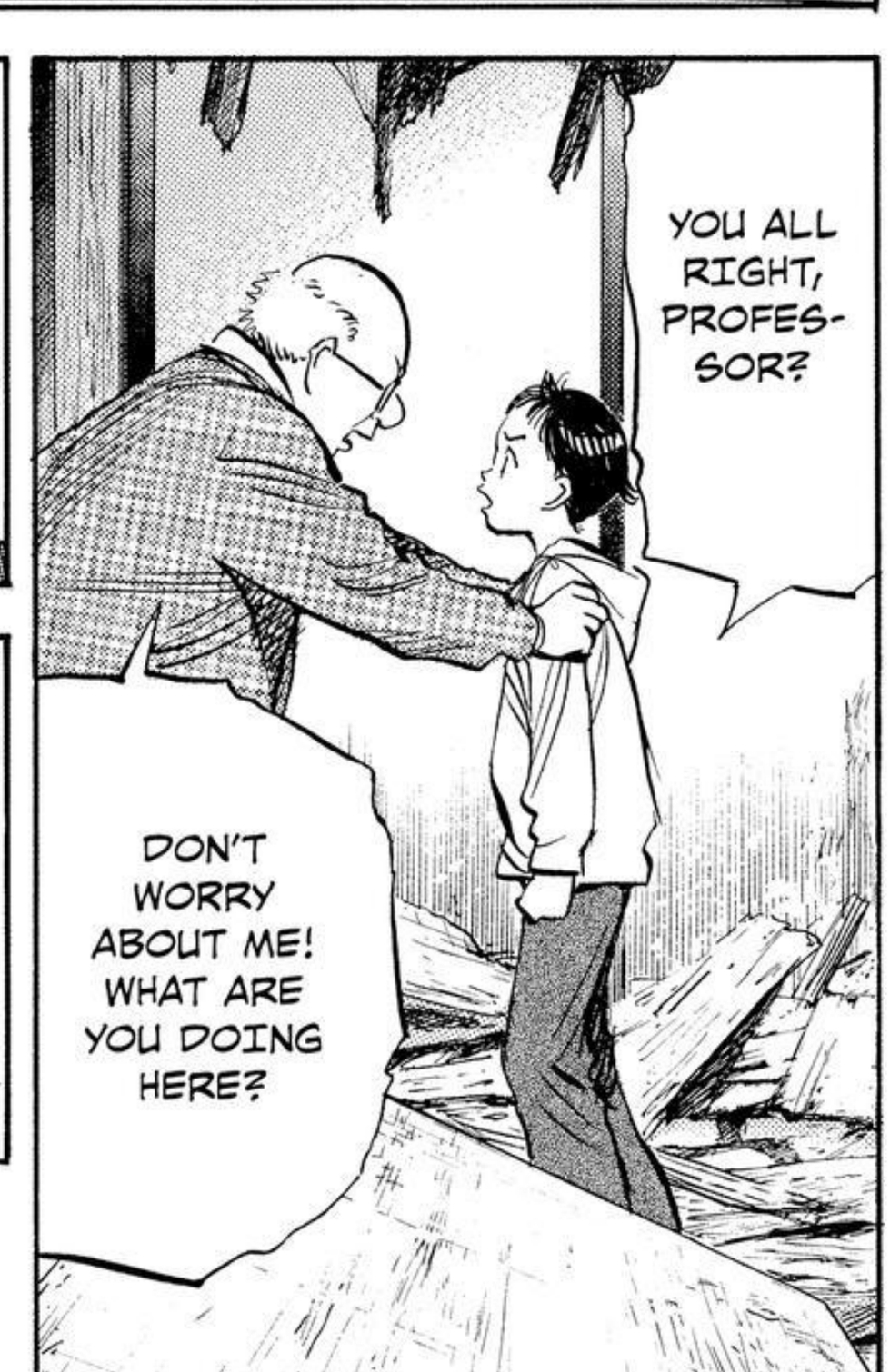

WHAT THE--?!



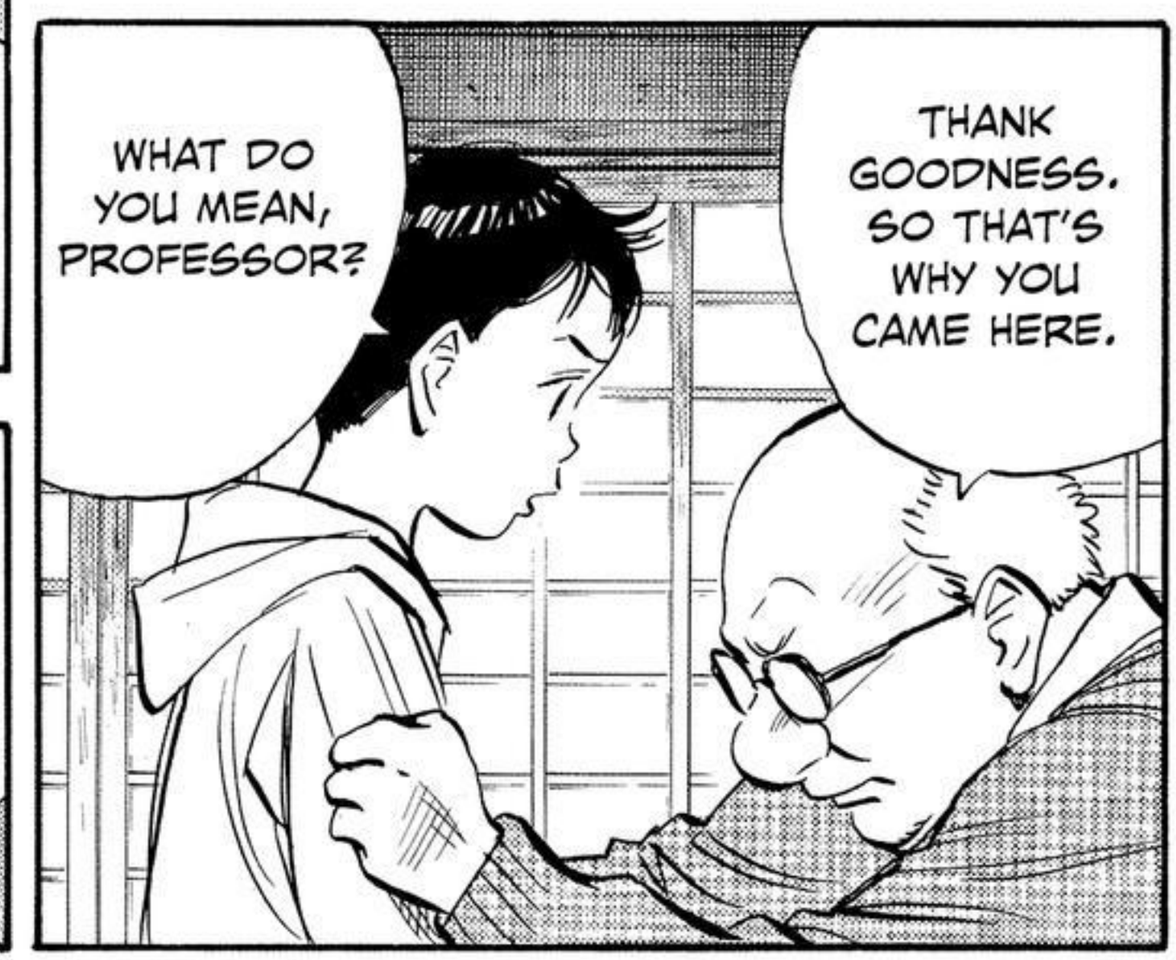
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!!
DASH
AFTER HIM!

THAT'S WHY I CONTACTED THE POLICE!
I CAUGHT THE EMERGENCY POLICE SIGNAL FROM TAKASHI'S DOG BOBBY!

I SEE...
AND I SUSPECTED SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING HERE...

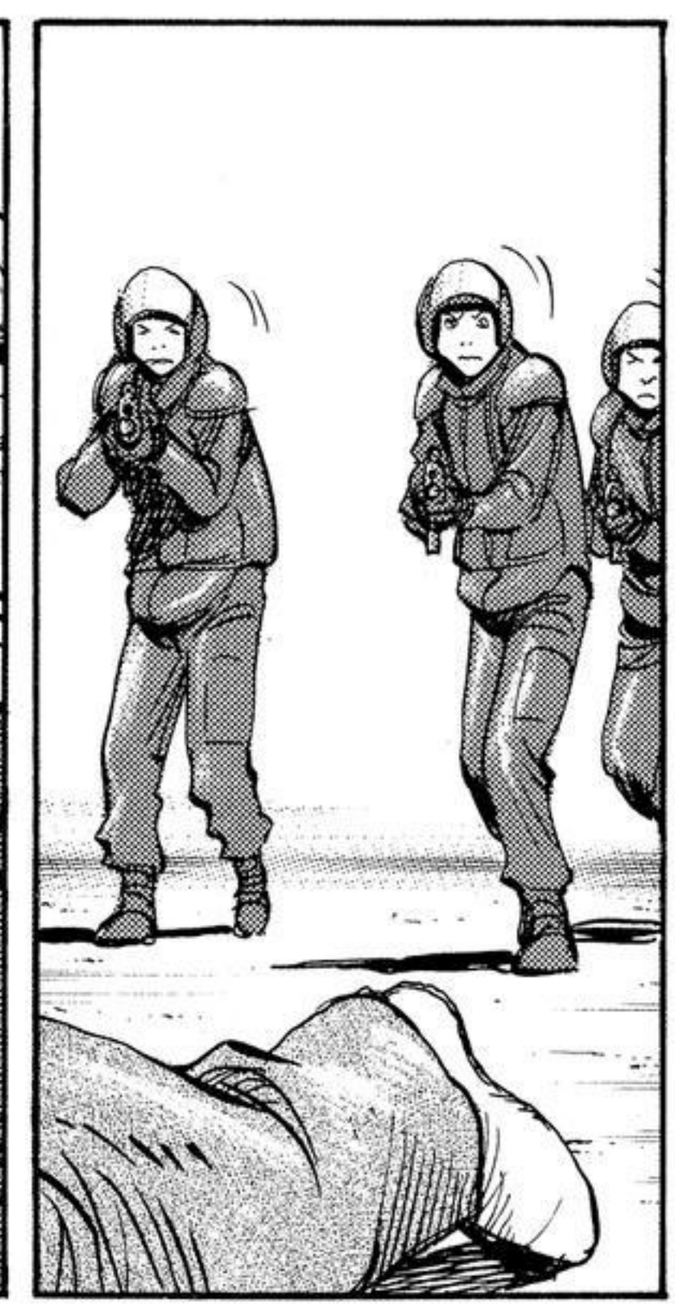

YOU ALL RIGHT, PROFES-SOR?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OH... NEVER MIND.

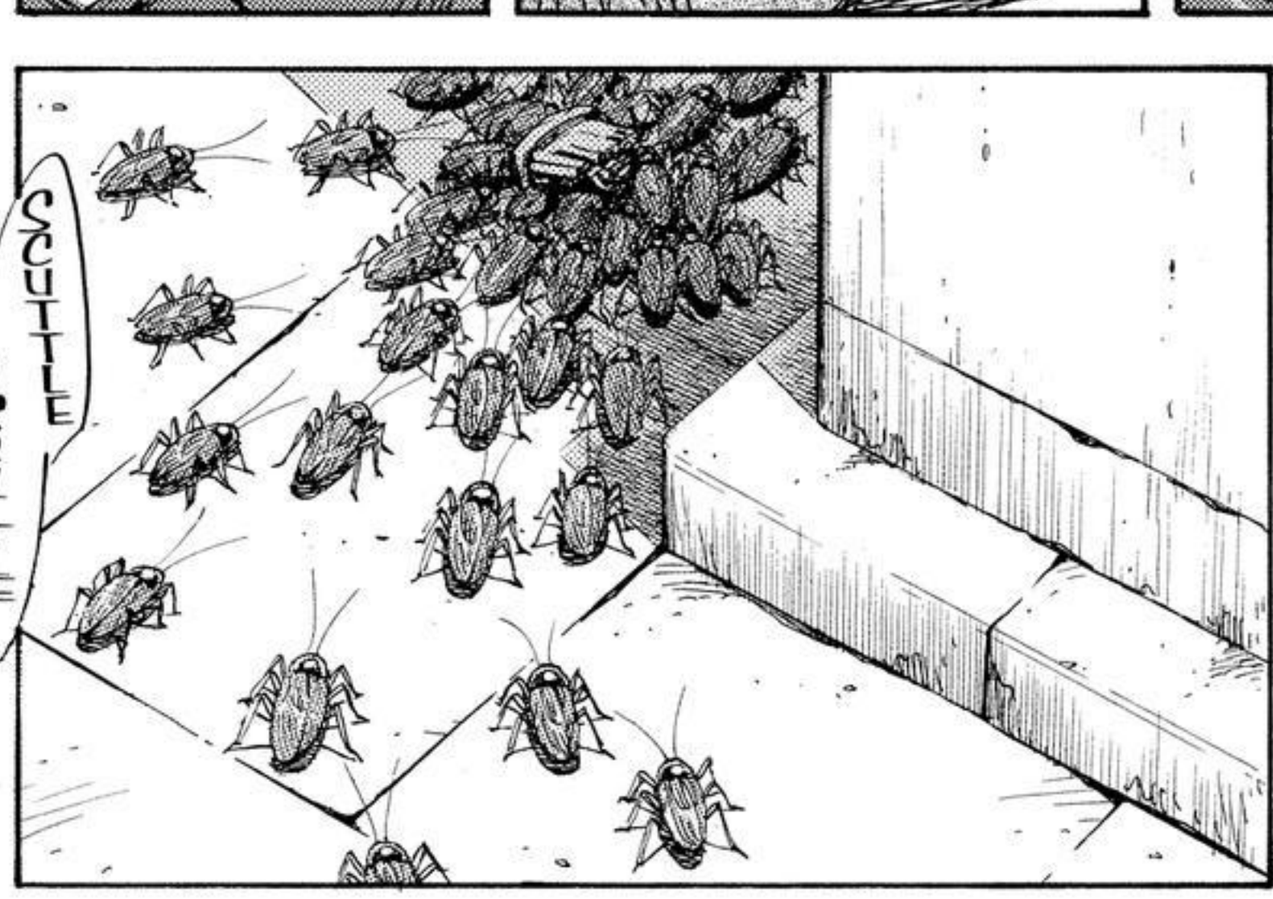

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PROFESSOR?
THANK GOODNESS. SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE.

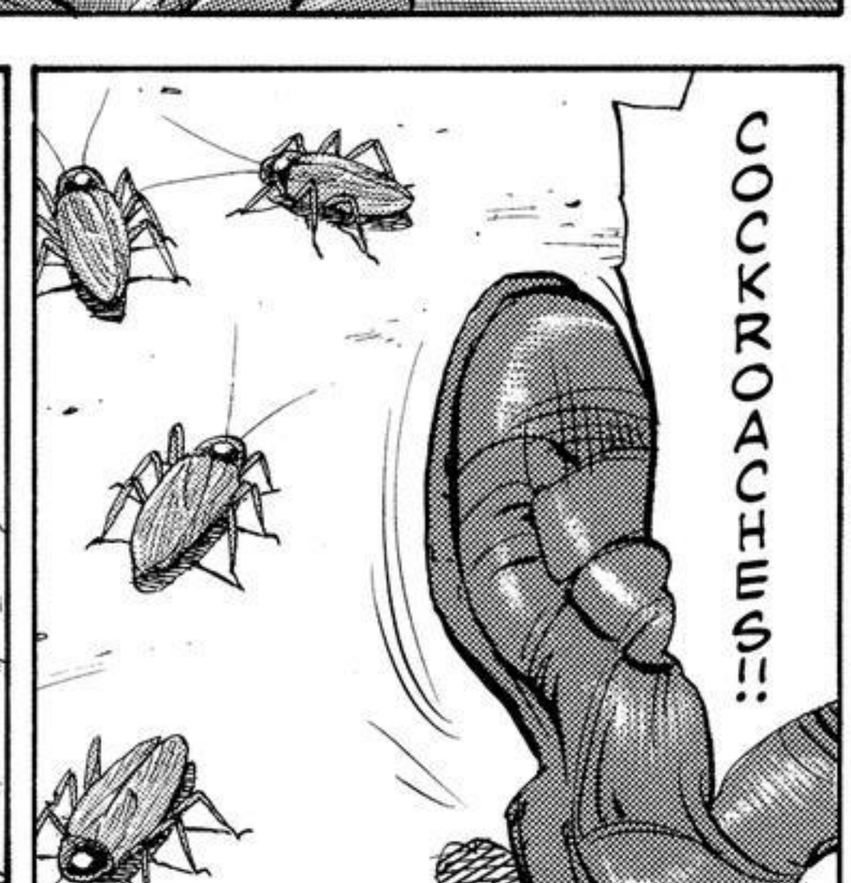
I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON BOBBY, PROFESSOR ...

YUCK!



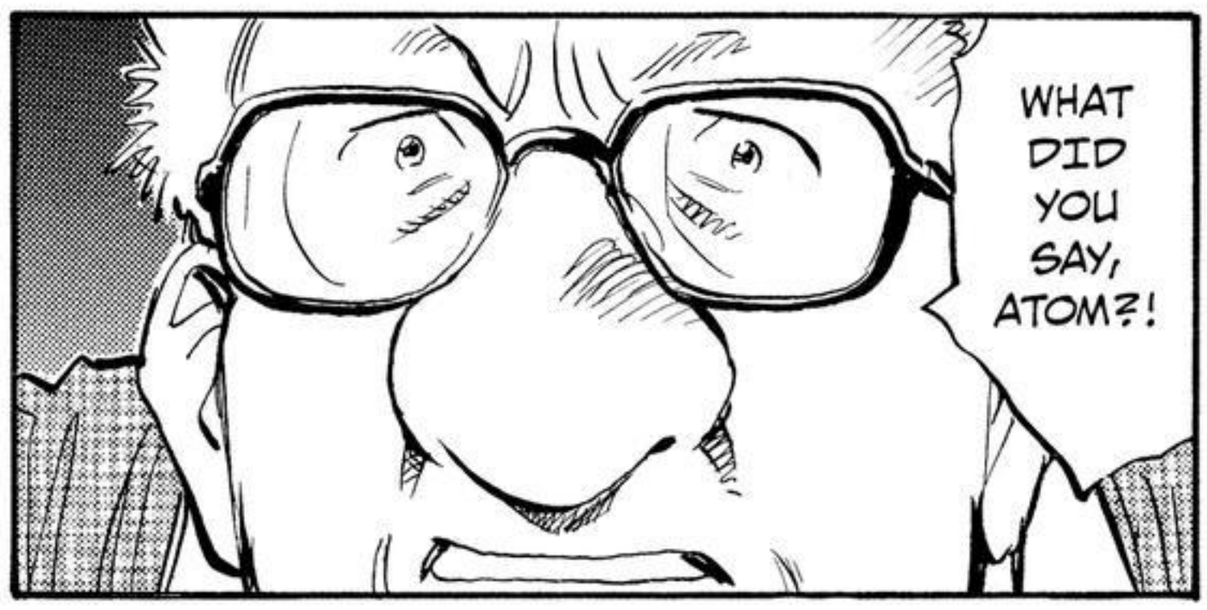
LOOK!
THERE HE IS!!


SCUTTLE SCUTTLE


COCKROACHES!!

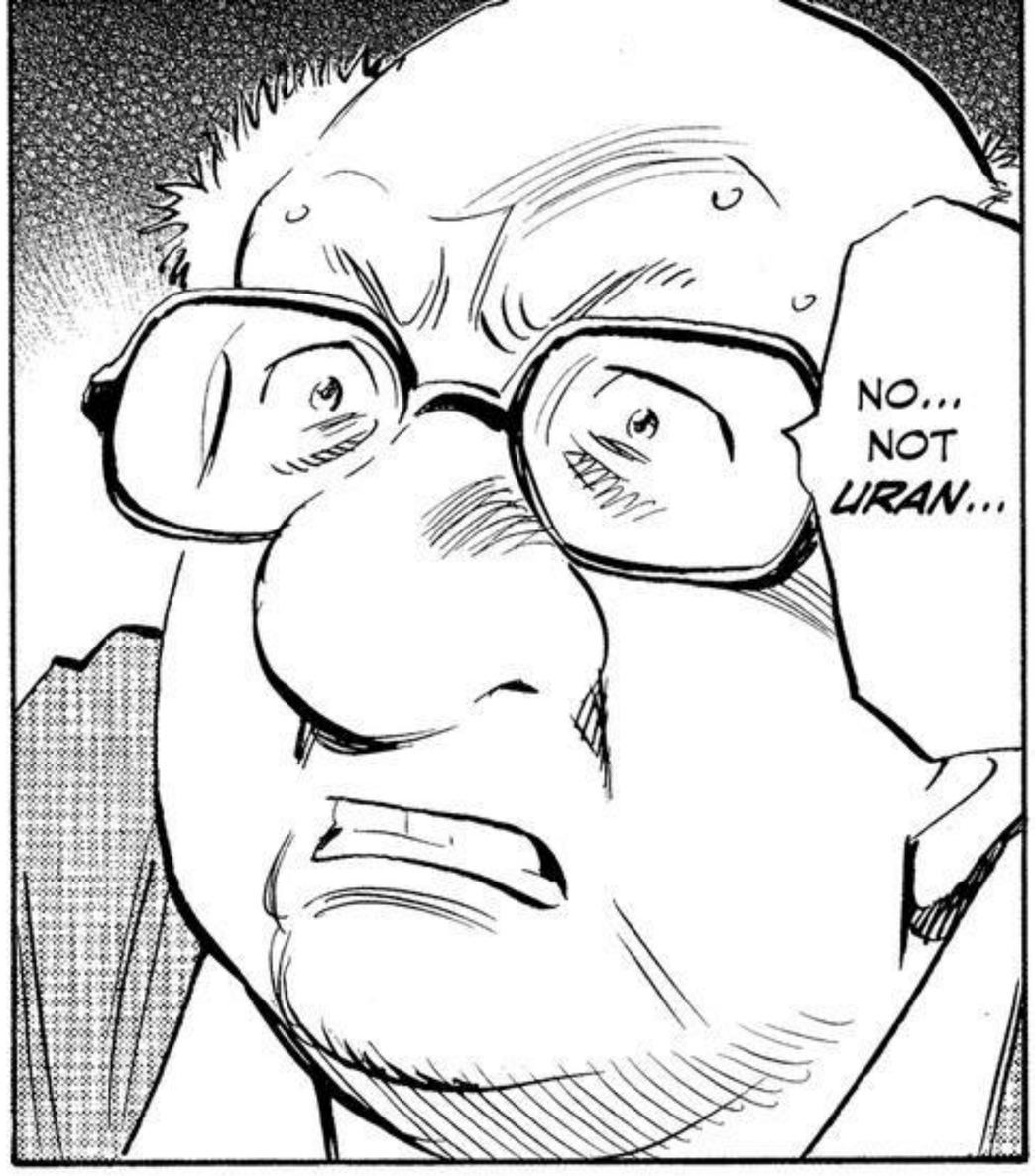
WH-WHAT WAS THAT THEY WERE CARRYING...?

LOOK AT THIS...
POLICE

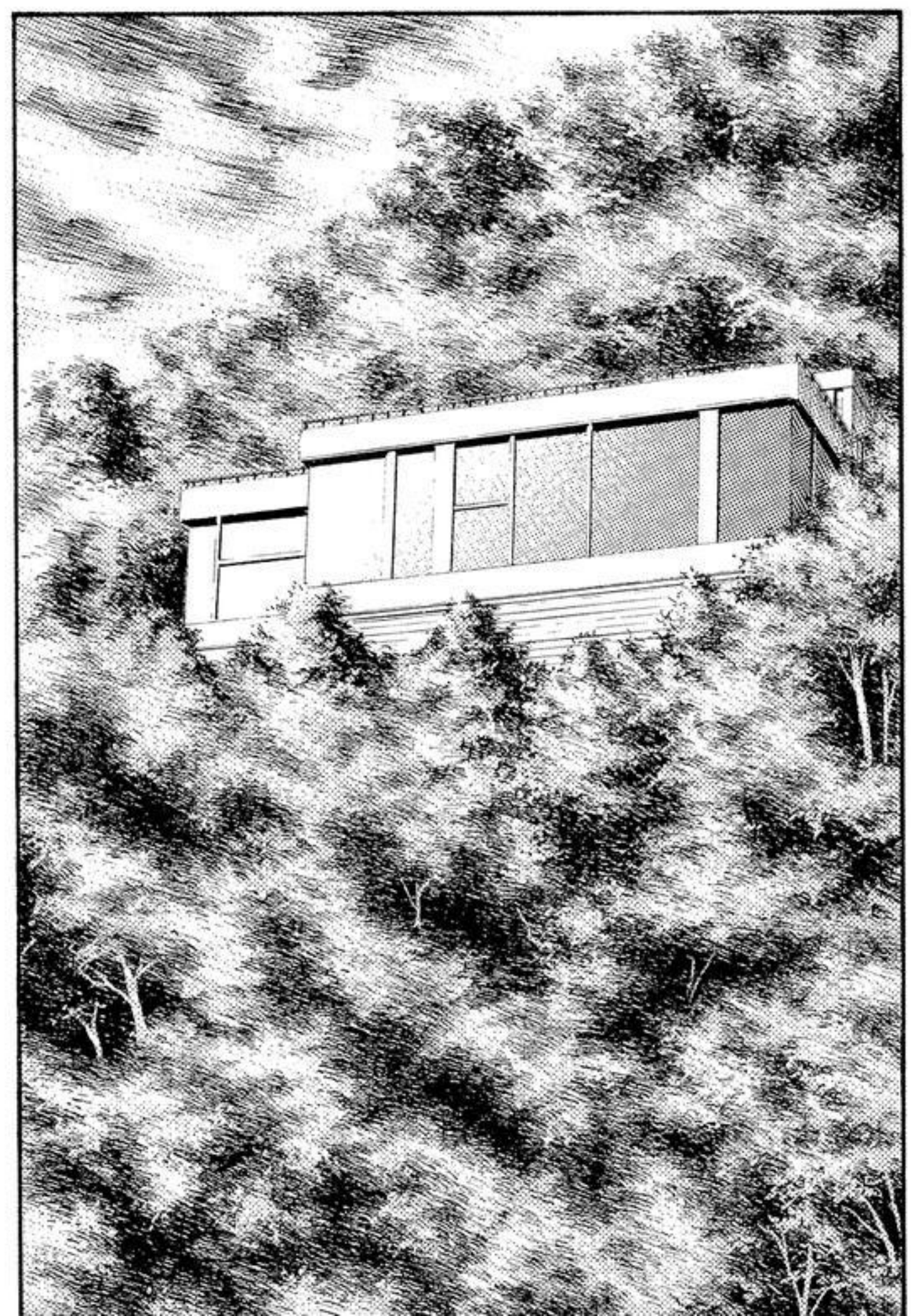

WHAT DID YOU SAY, ATOM?!

SHE'S RESPONDING TO BOBBY'S EMERGENCY SIGNAL...
URAN DID *WHAT*...?!

HIS AI'S GONE...
POLICE
POLICE


NO... NOT URAN...

I TRIED TO STOP HER...
BUT SHE TOOK OFF FOR TAKASHI'S PLACE...

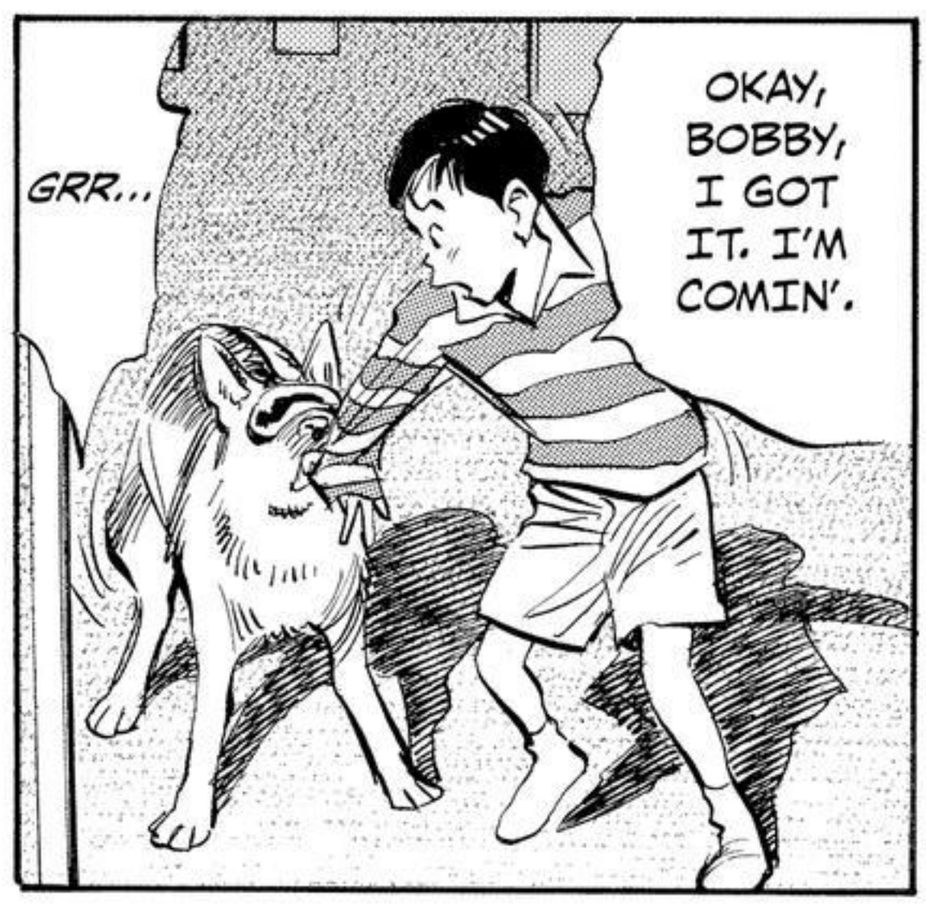


WOOSH

LOOK AT THAT...

OKAY, MOM. I'M COMING.
GRRR

TAKASHI! GET IN THE SHELTER LIKE YOUR GRAMPA TOLD YOU!


GRR...
OKAY, BOBBY, I GOT IT. I'M COMIN'.

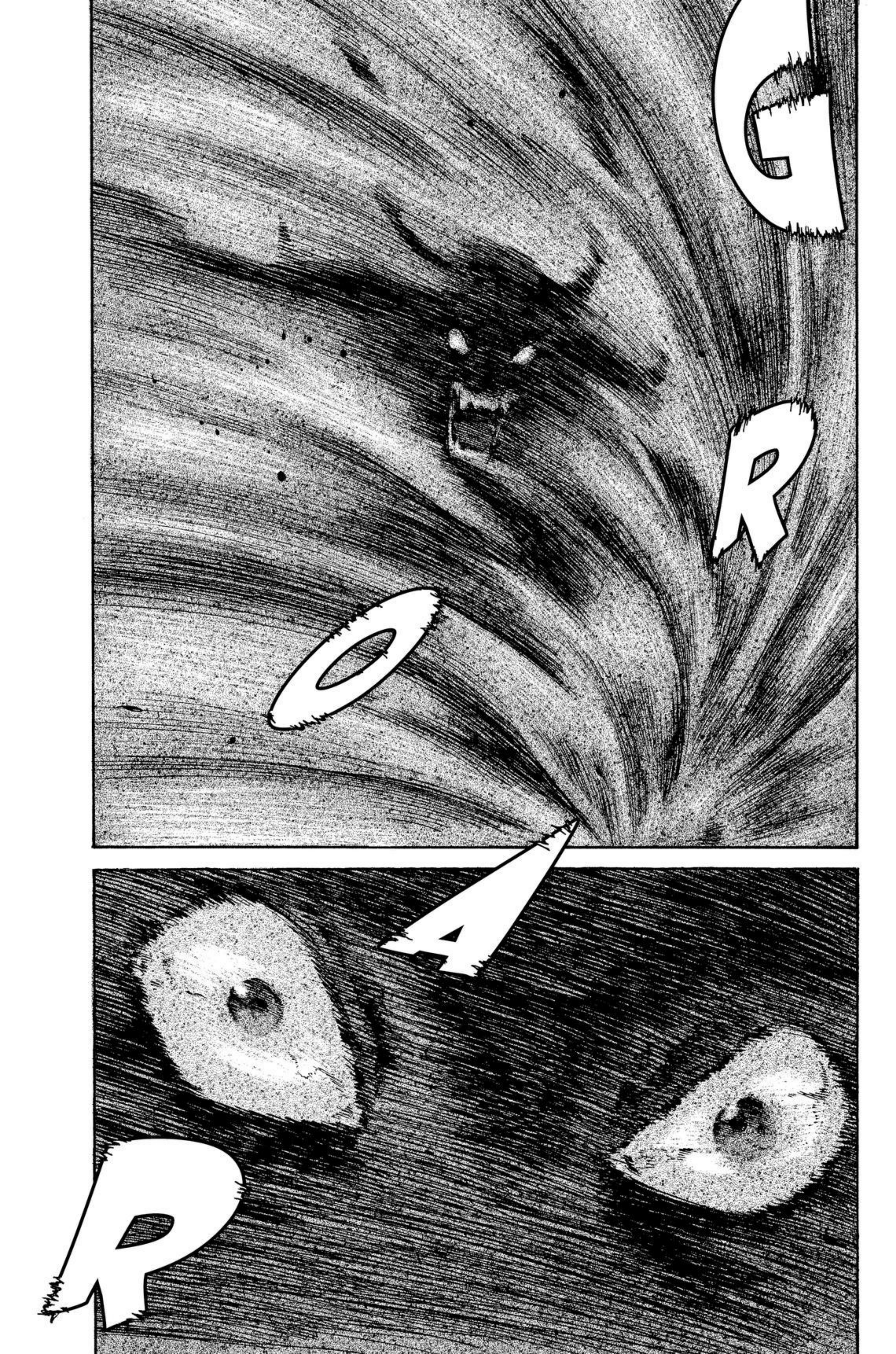
CRASH

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TAKASHI'S PLACE?!!

WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT URAN?

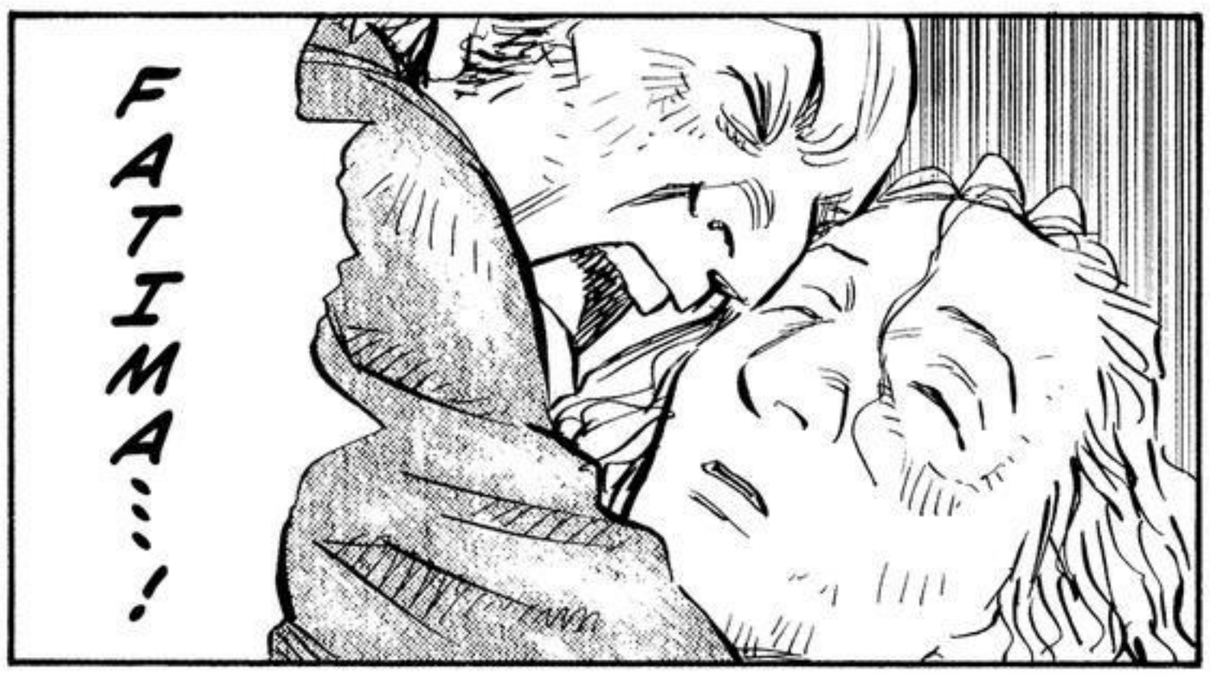
YIKES!
ARGH!!

GRAO


GRAP

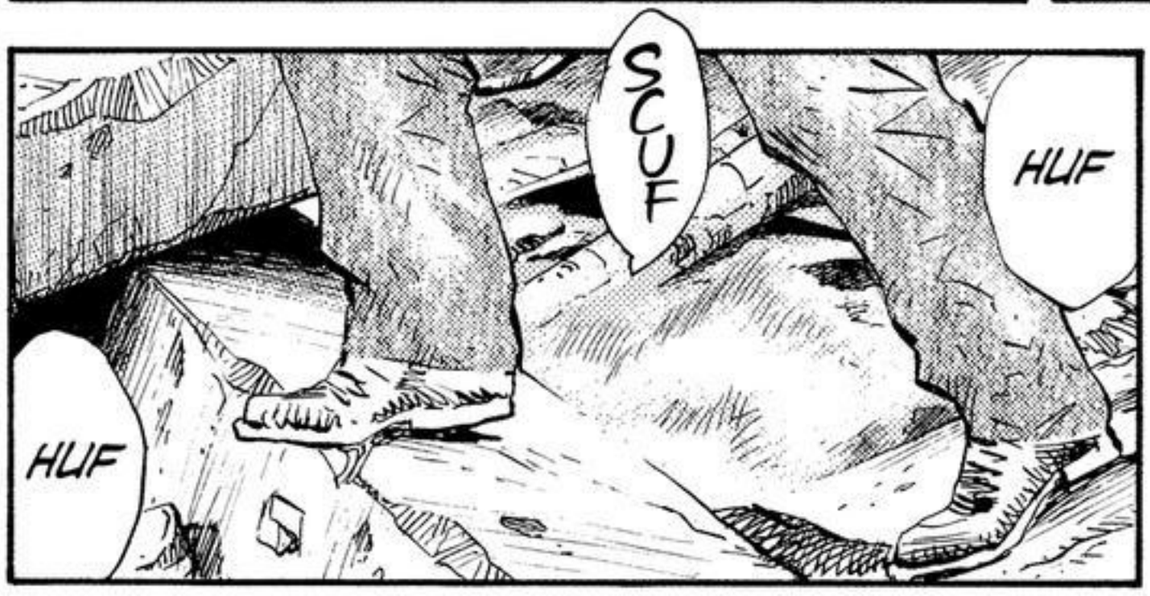
Act 26 THE CONFRONTATION

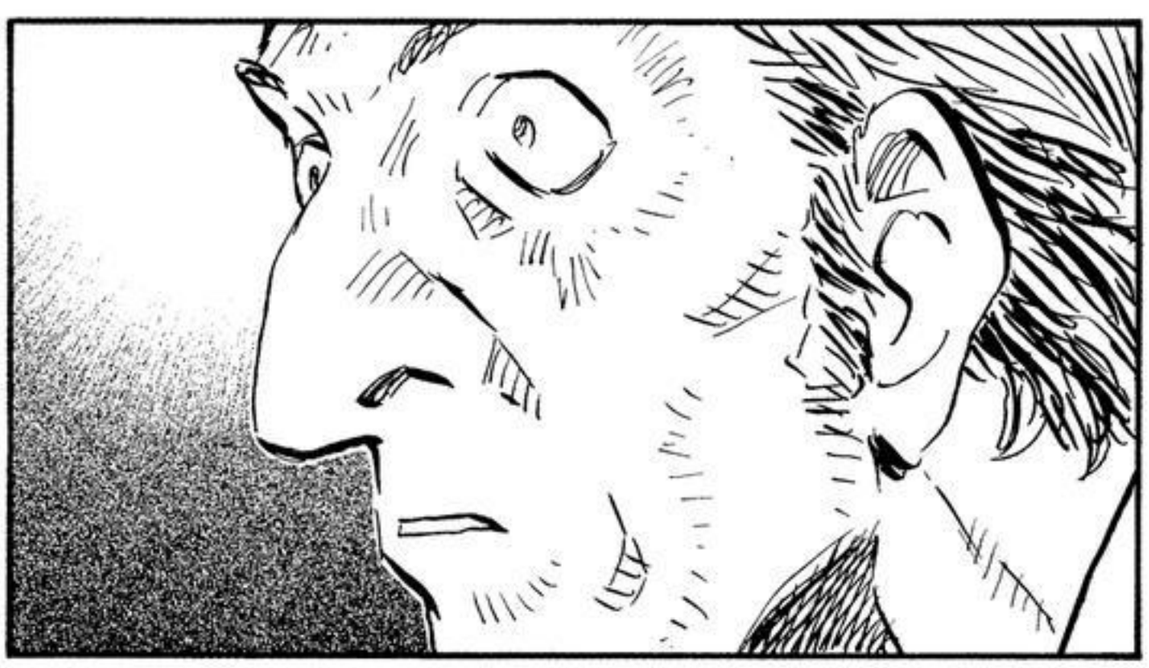
OPEN YOUR EYES...
FATIMA !!


FATIMA...!

FATIMA ...

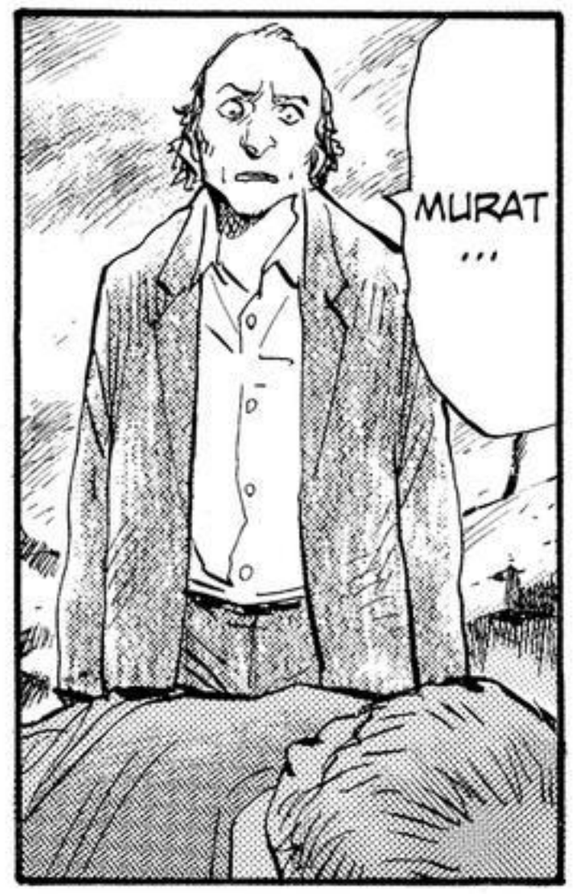
THE CHILDREN...

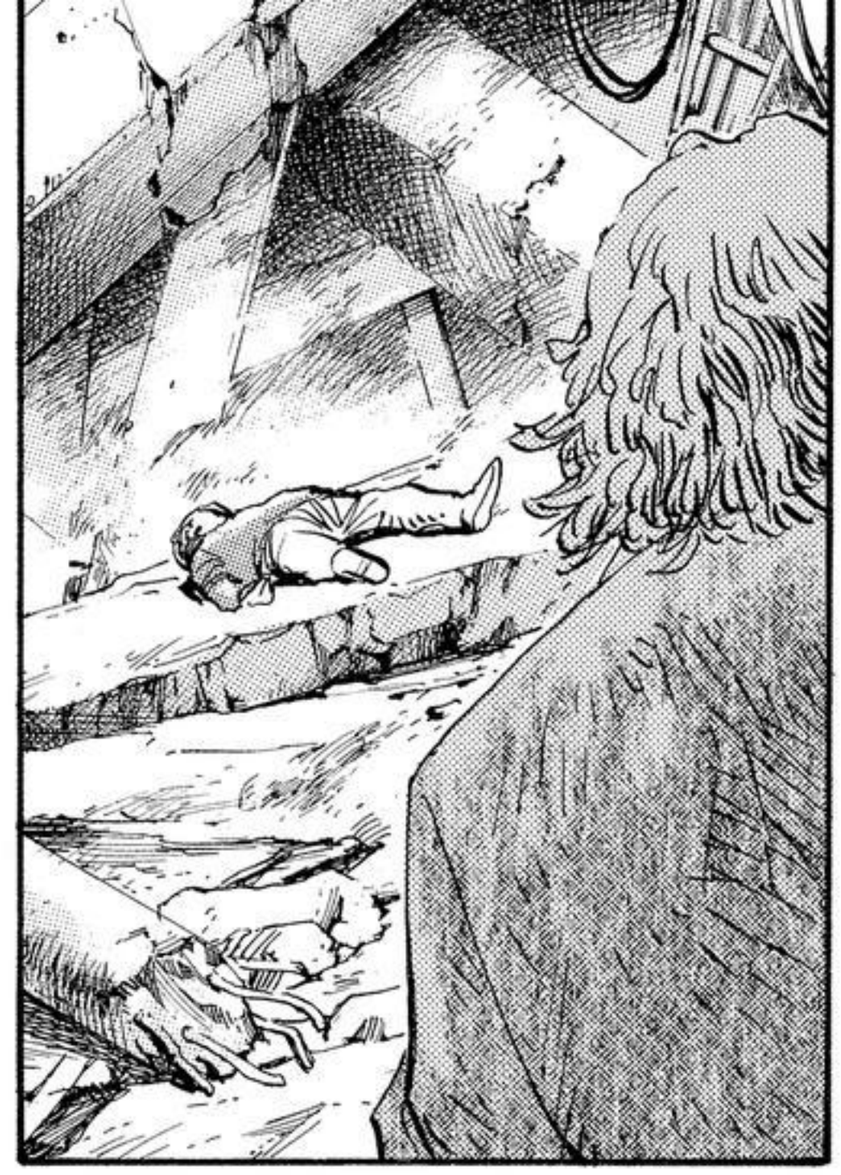

SCUF
HUF
HUF

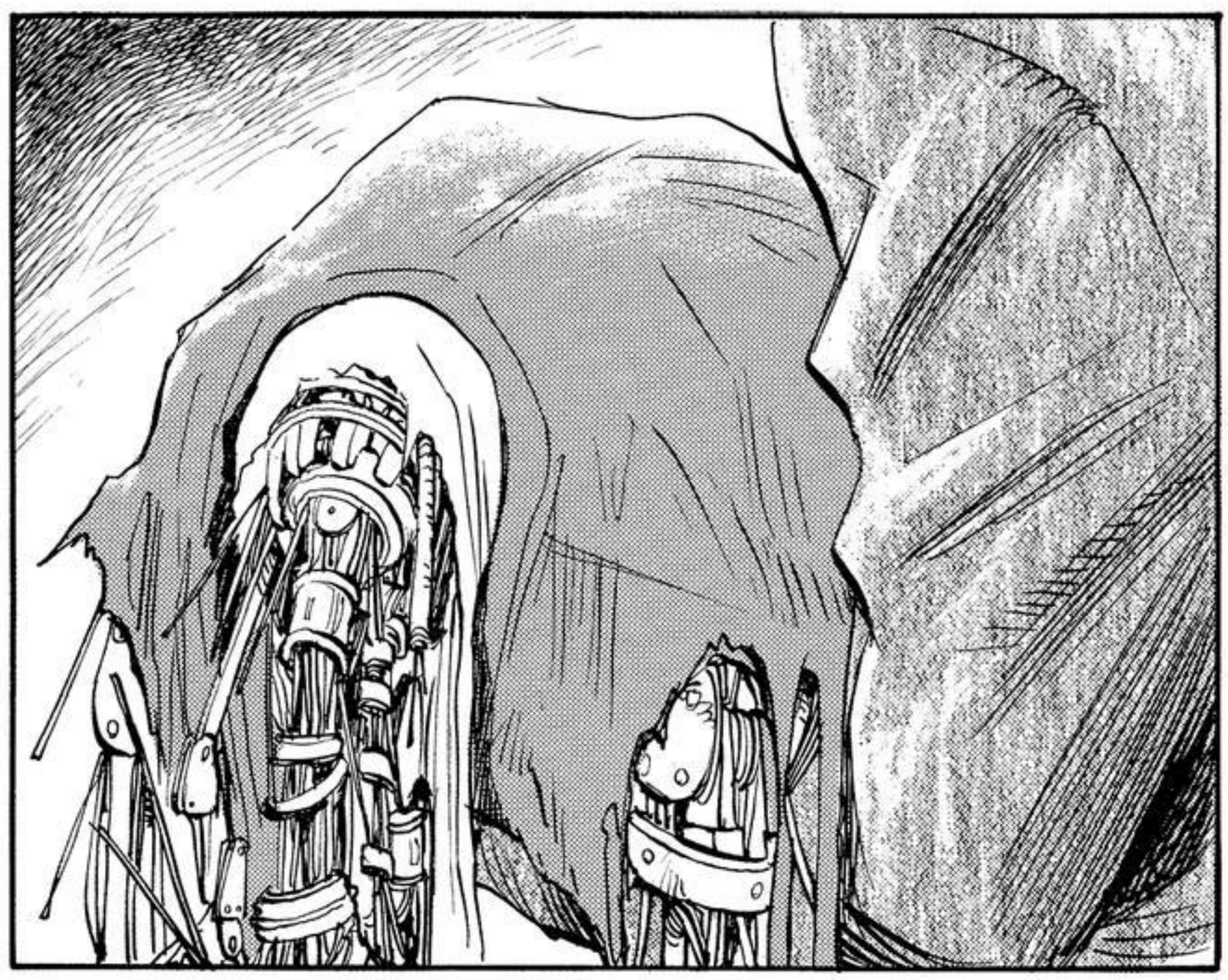


MURAT!!
LOLA!!

MURAT!!

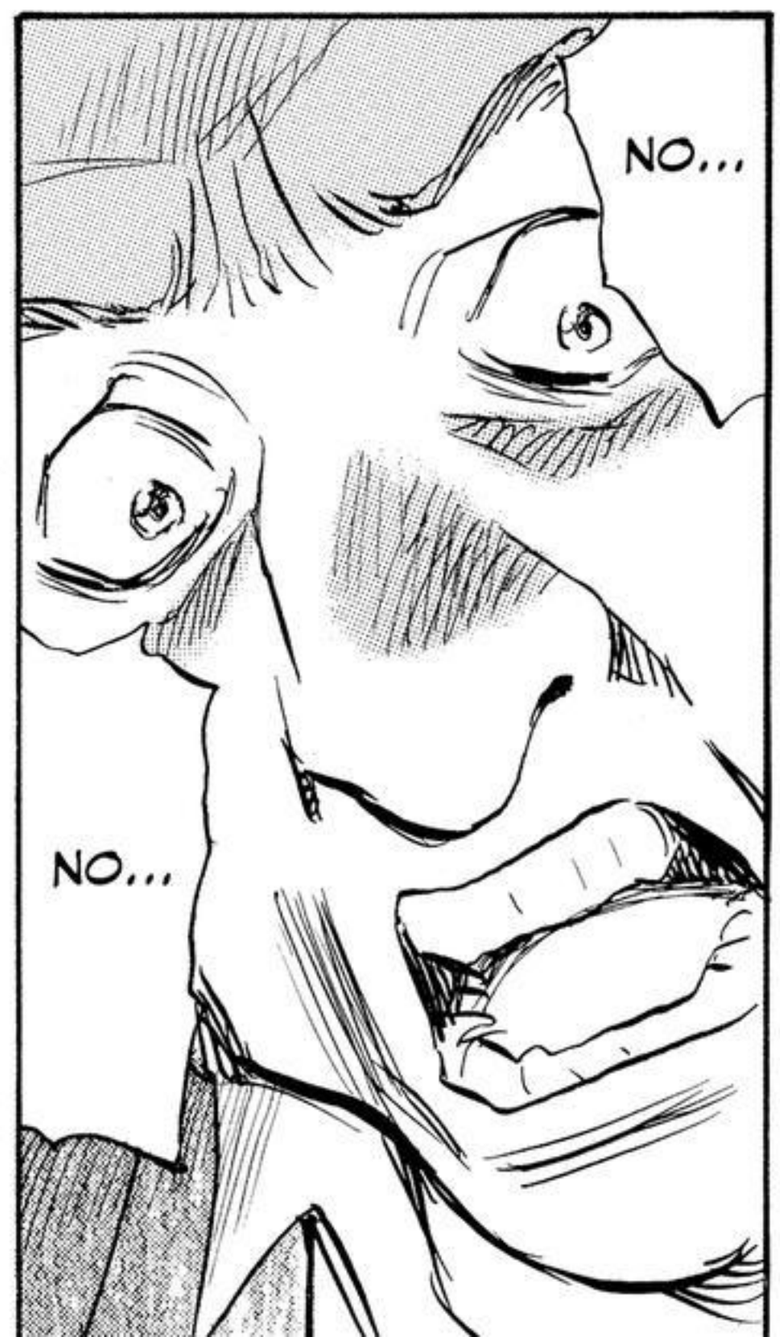

MURAT ...





!!
ZZT

NOOO!!


NO...
NO...

NOO
!!

HIS TRANSMIS-SIONS HAVE CEASED, SIR.

AND WHAT ABOUT PLUTO ...?

HE'S BEING TAKEN OVER...
PERFECT...

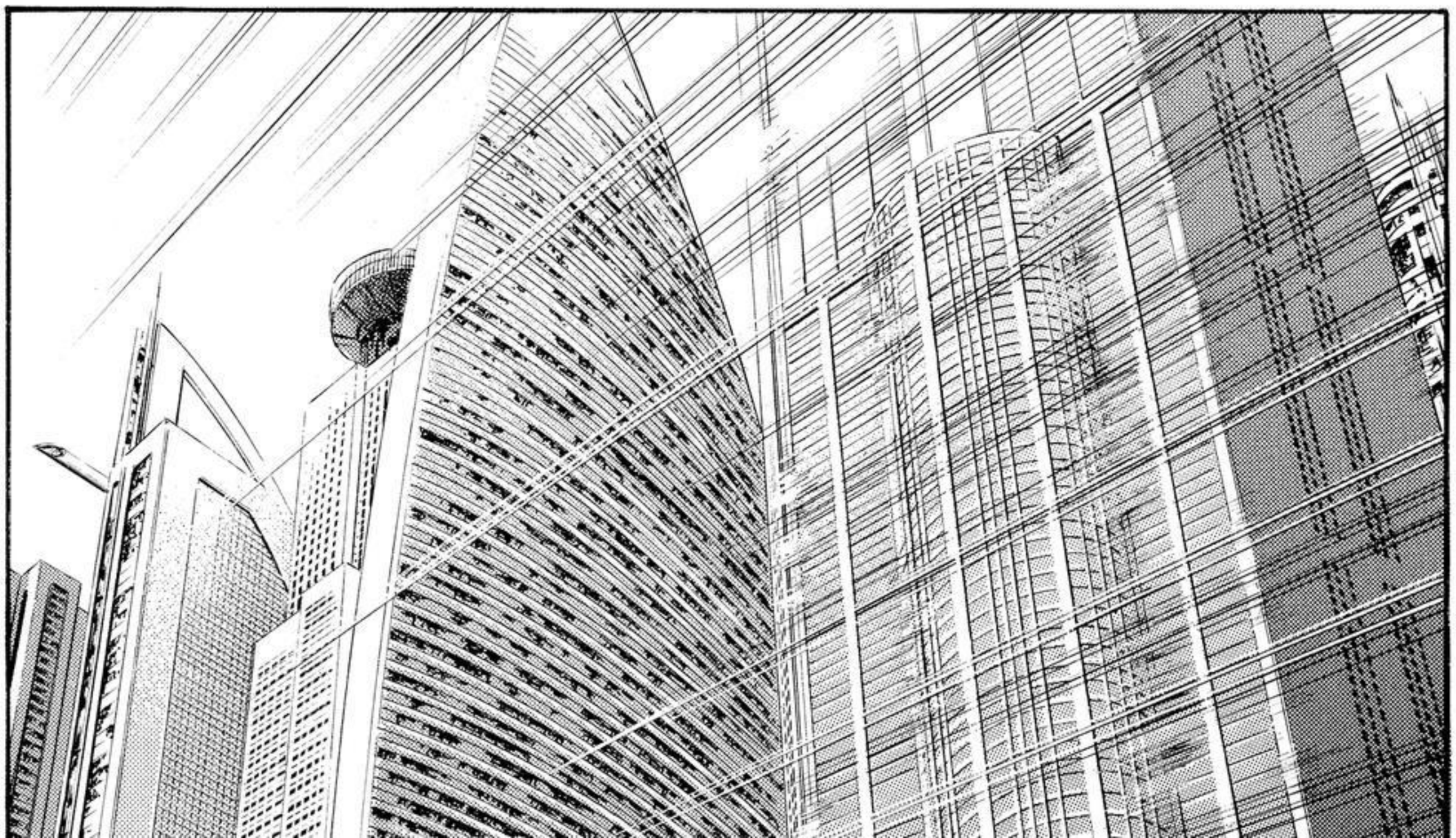
SO HE'S OUT OF CONTROL NOW...?

PERFECT ...

...BY PURE *HATRED* ...

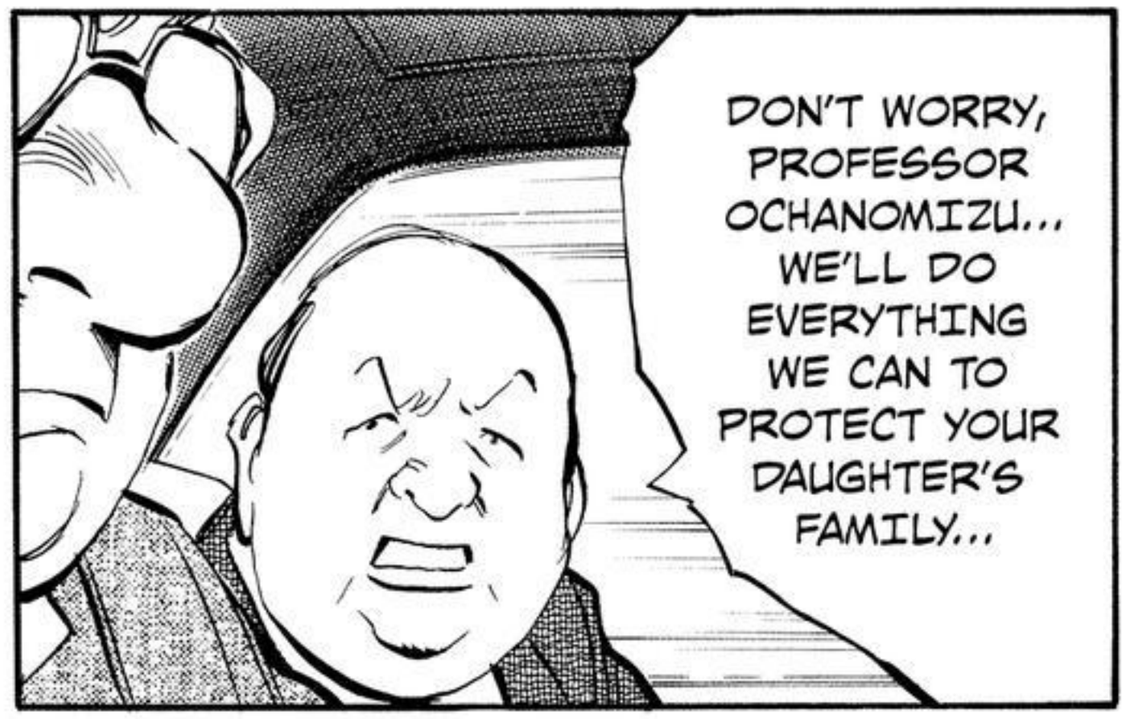
Act 26

THE CONFRONTATION

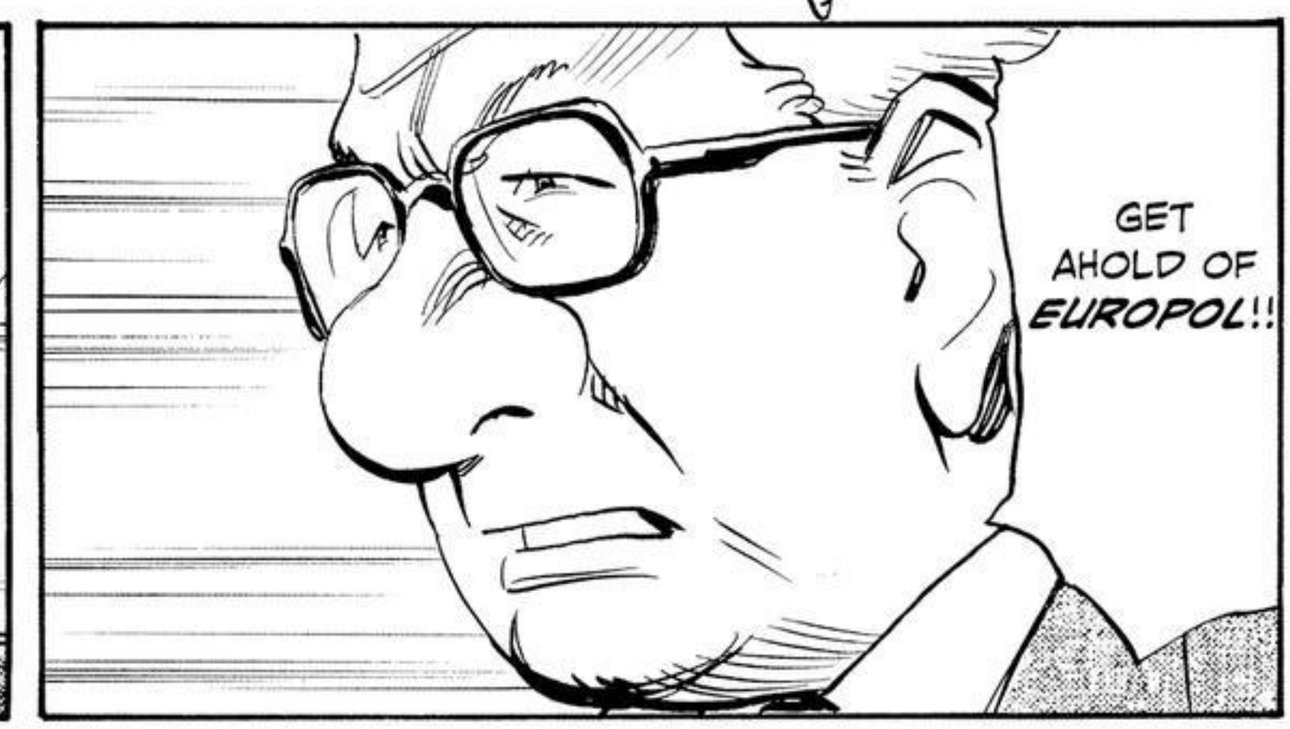


C'MON... WE NEED AN IMAGE OF THE SITE, NOW!

THE SIGNAL'S VERY WEAK, SIR. WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYTHING!!
ANY CONTACT FROM THE PREFECTURAL POLICE?
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
VWOOSH


DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROTECT YOUR DAUGHTER'S FAMILY...

WHA--?!


GET AHOLD OF EUROPOL!!

IT'S GOJI!!
I KNOW WHO'S BEEN TARGETING THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED ROBOTS, AND ALSO WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE MAYHEM AND KILLINGS!!

YOU DO?
I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS.

PROFESSOR GOJI!!

THE MAN WHO CREATED A ROBOT ARMY FOR THE PERSIAN KINGDOM IN THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR...

GOJI?

THIS IS AN *INTERNATIONAL CRISIS*!!

LISTEN, NAKAMURA... WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR FACE-SAVING PROTOCOLS!!

I'LL CONTACT SUPER-INTENDENT TAWASHI RIGHT AWAY...

I GET IT NOW...

B... BUT, SIR... THE METRO-POLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT ...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!!

GESICHT ?!!

THE DESIGNATED AGENT IS INSPECTOR GESICHT, SIR.

GULP

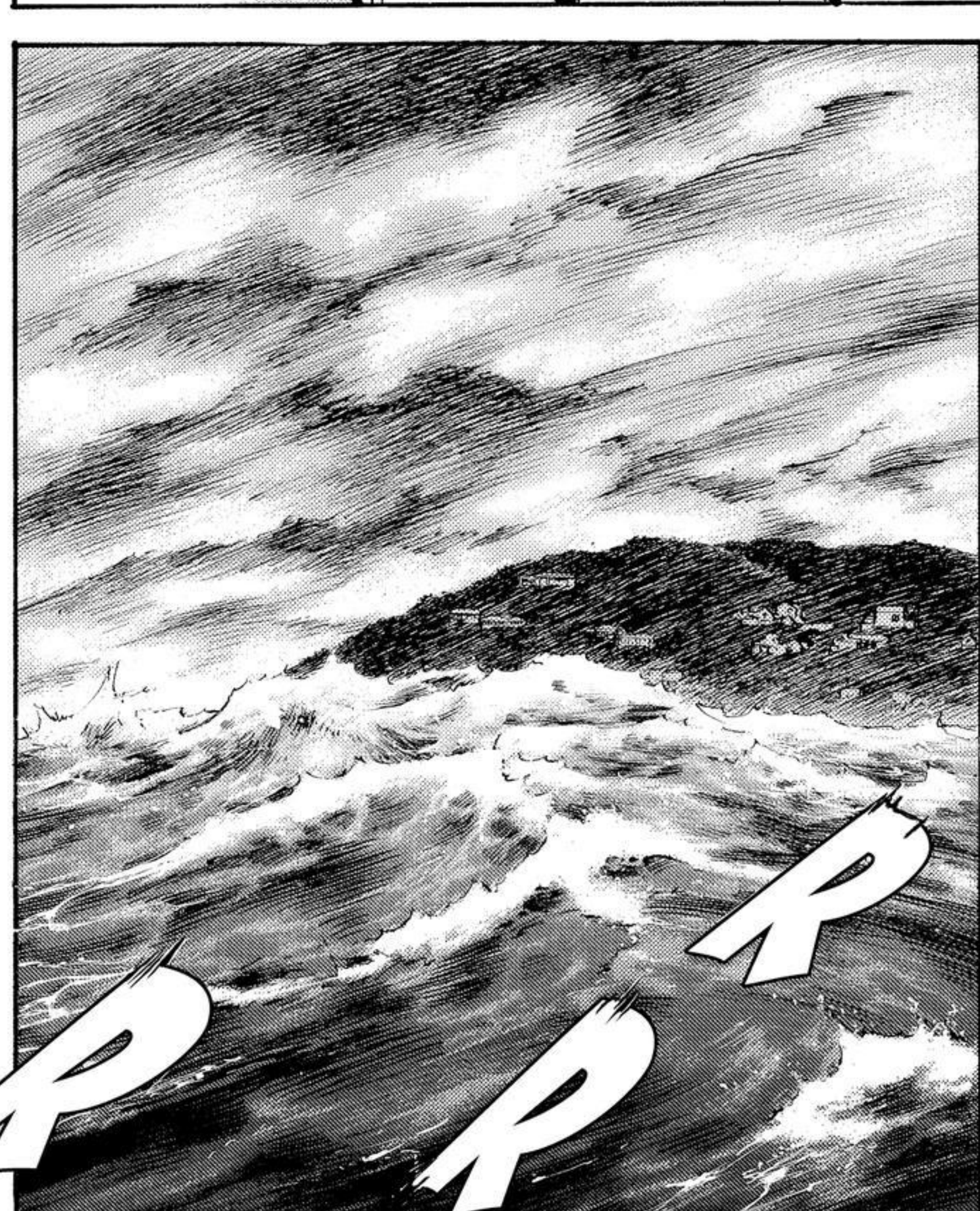
...

SO GET AHOLD OF WHOEVER EUROPOL HAS ASSIGNED TO THIS CASE! NOW!!

HURRY!
WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!!

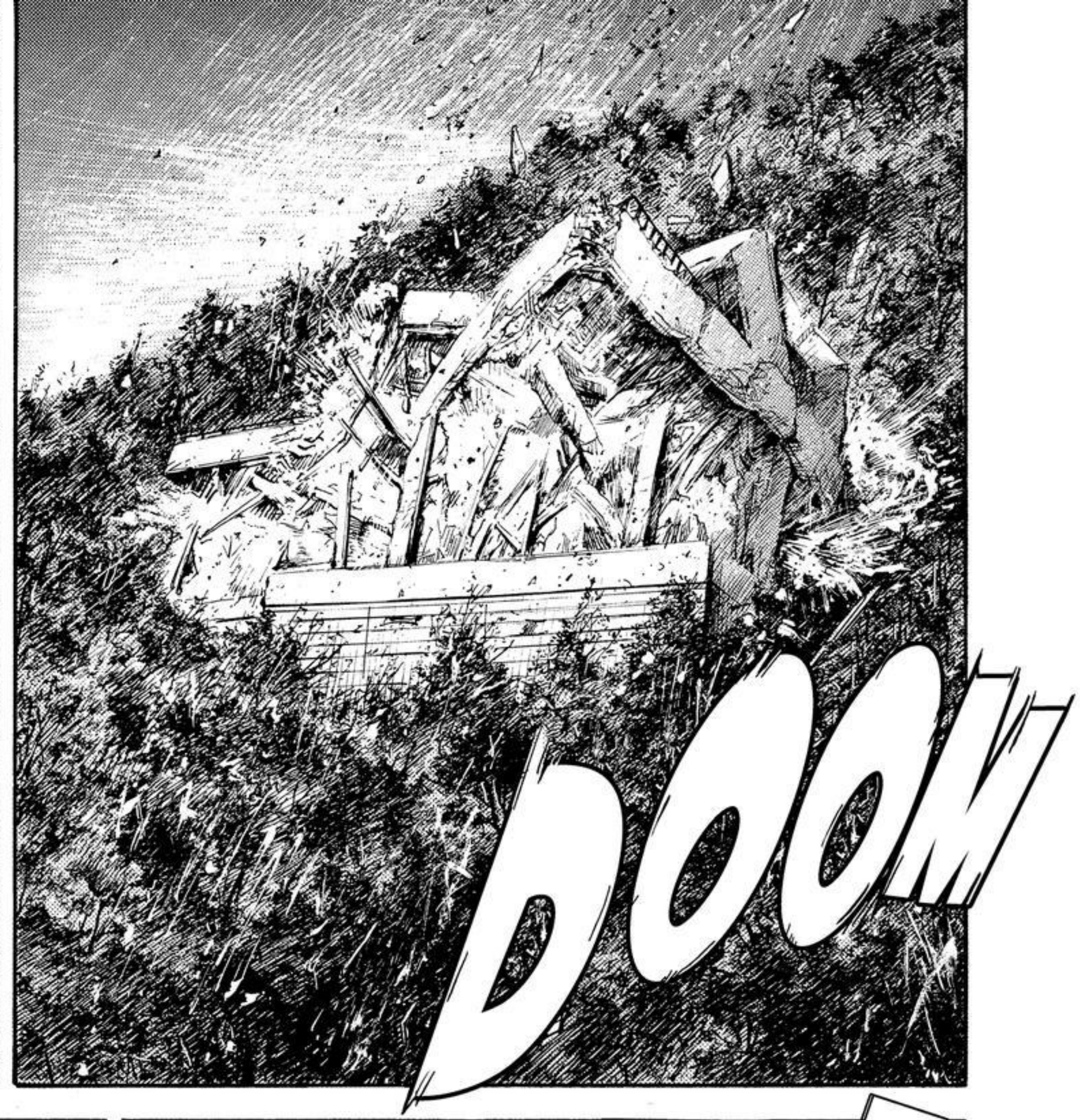
PATCH INTO INSPECTOR GESICHT'S FREQUENCY, NOW!
I WANT TO TALK DIRECTLY TO HIM!!

ATOM'S ALREADY ON HIS WAY!!


PPPP

GGOA
警視庁

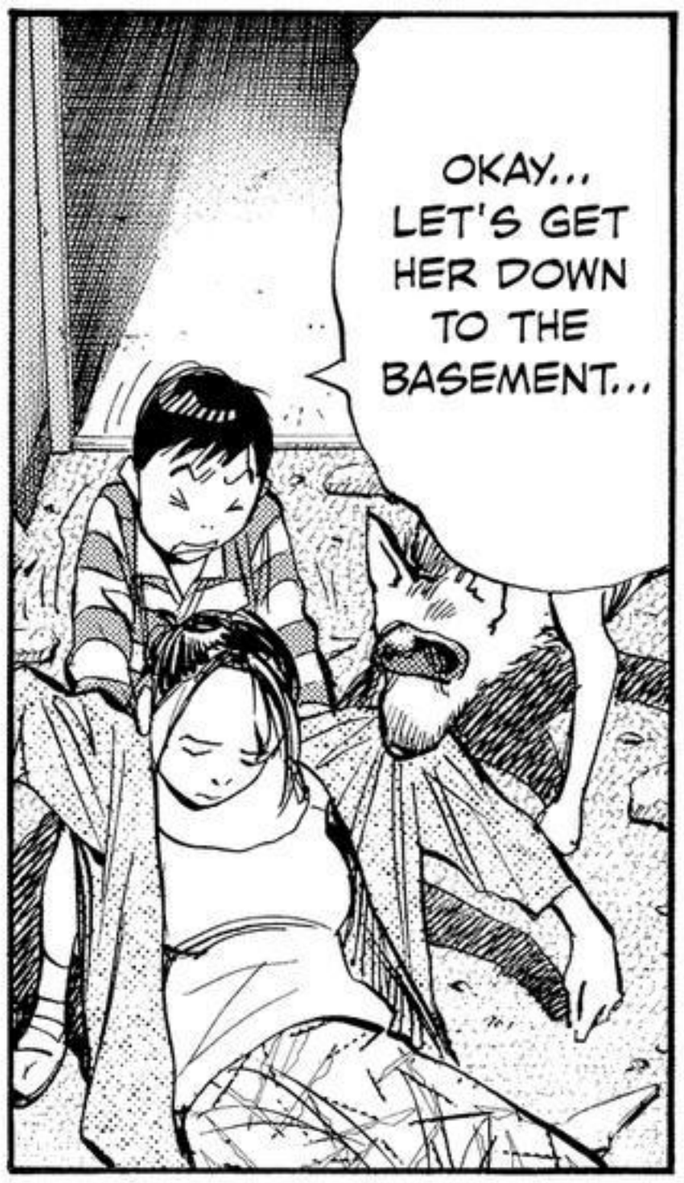
HELP!!

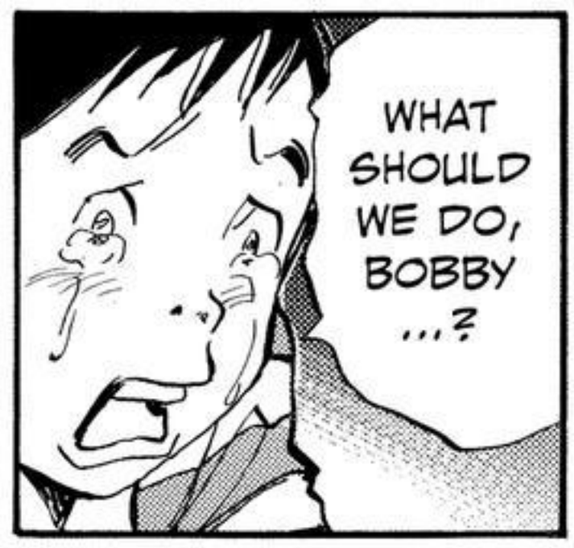

BOOM

!!

ARF!
ARF!
OW!!
TATUN

MOM! ARE YOU OKAY?!
MOM!!


OKAY... LET'S GET HER DOWN TO THE BASEMENT...

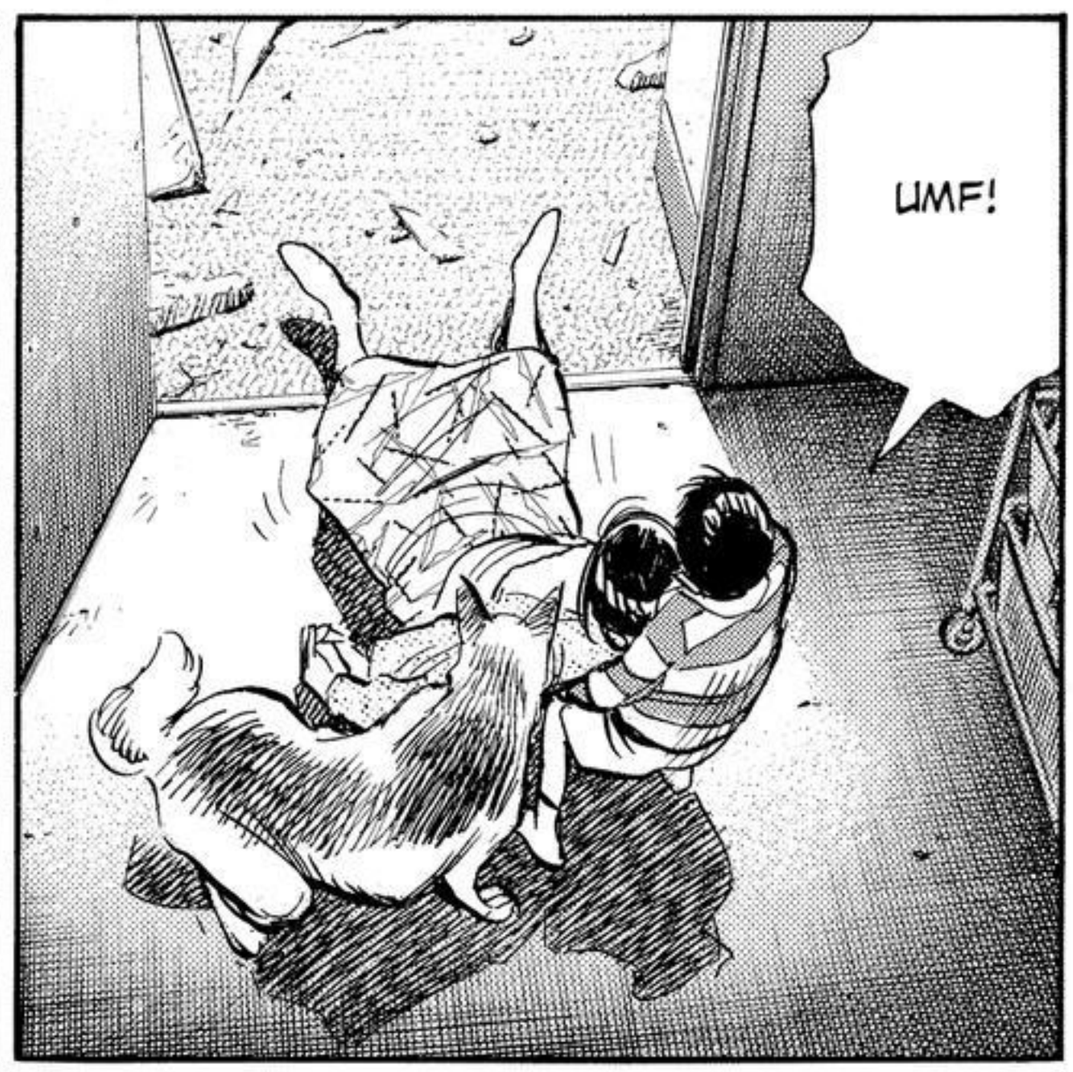

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, BOBBY ...?

GROWF!!

GROWF!! GROWF!!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE OKAY ...!!

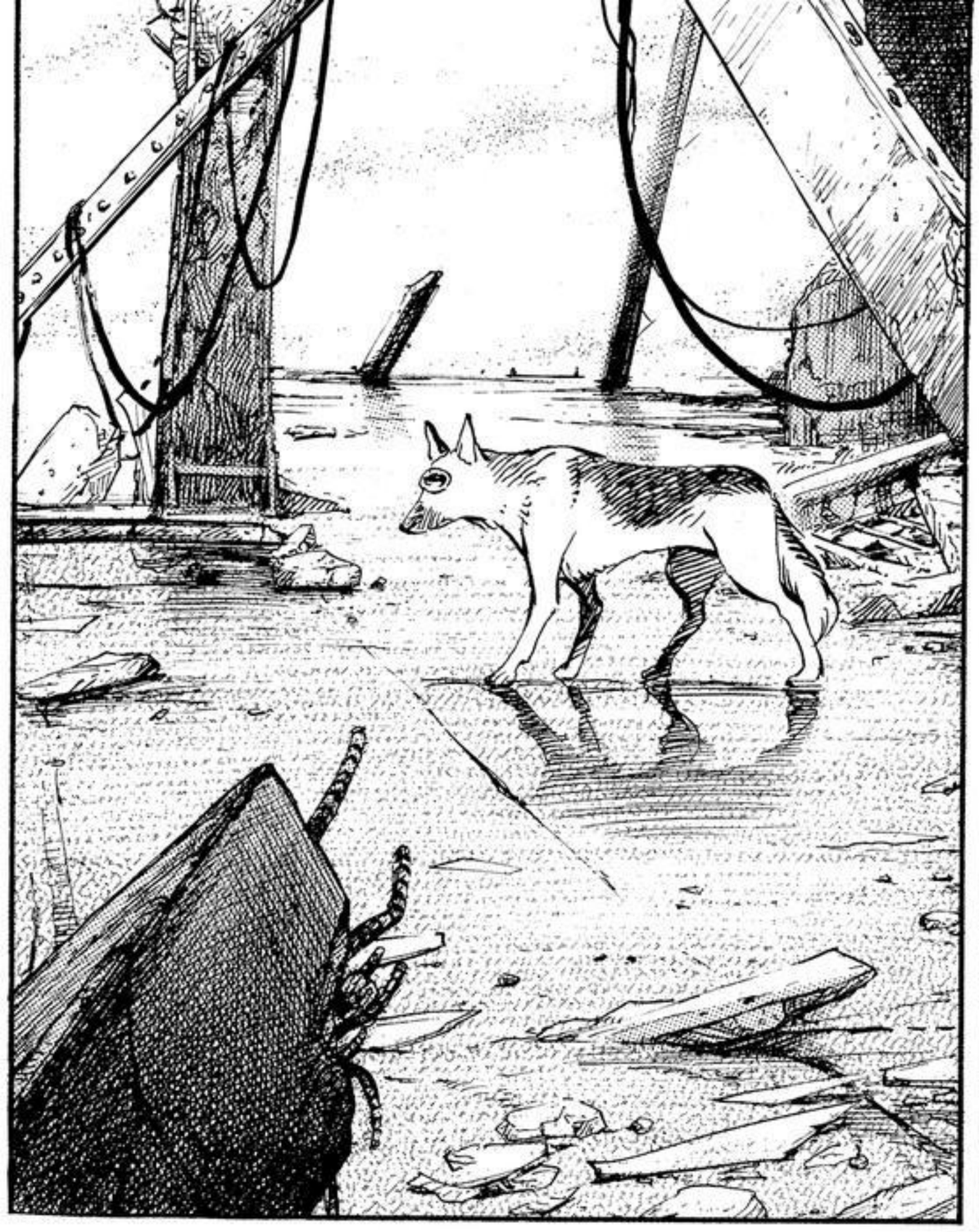
BOBBY...

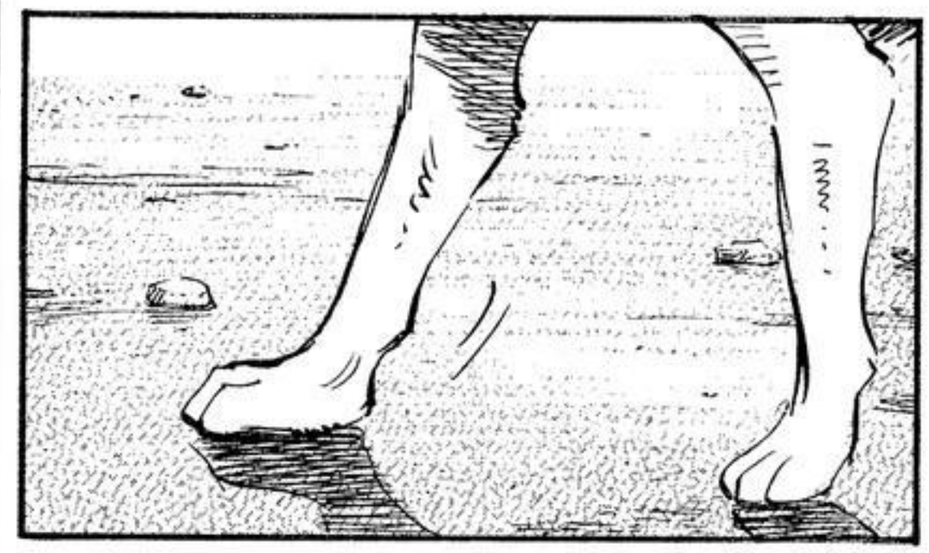
MOM, ARE YOU OKAY?! MOM?
UNGH...

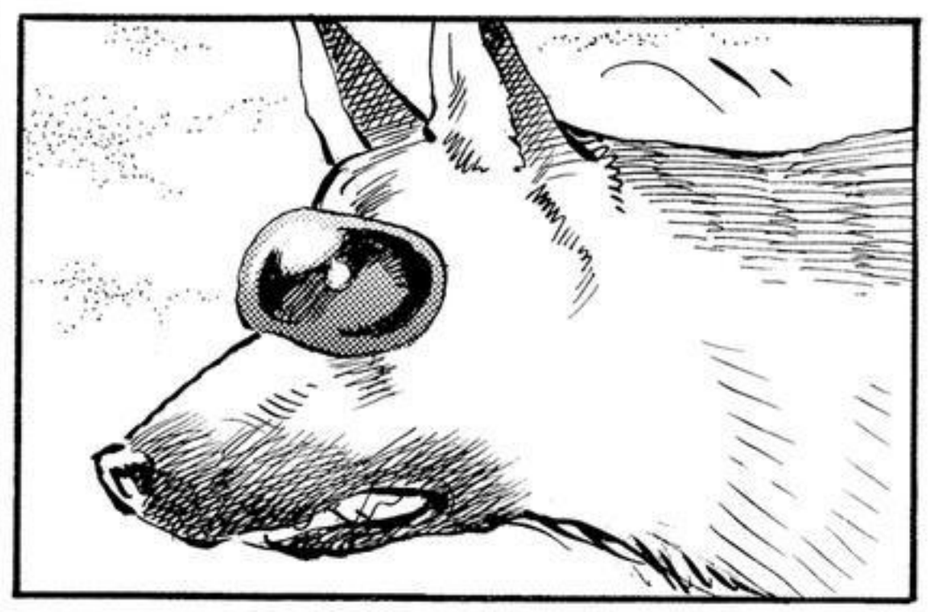

UMF!

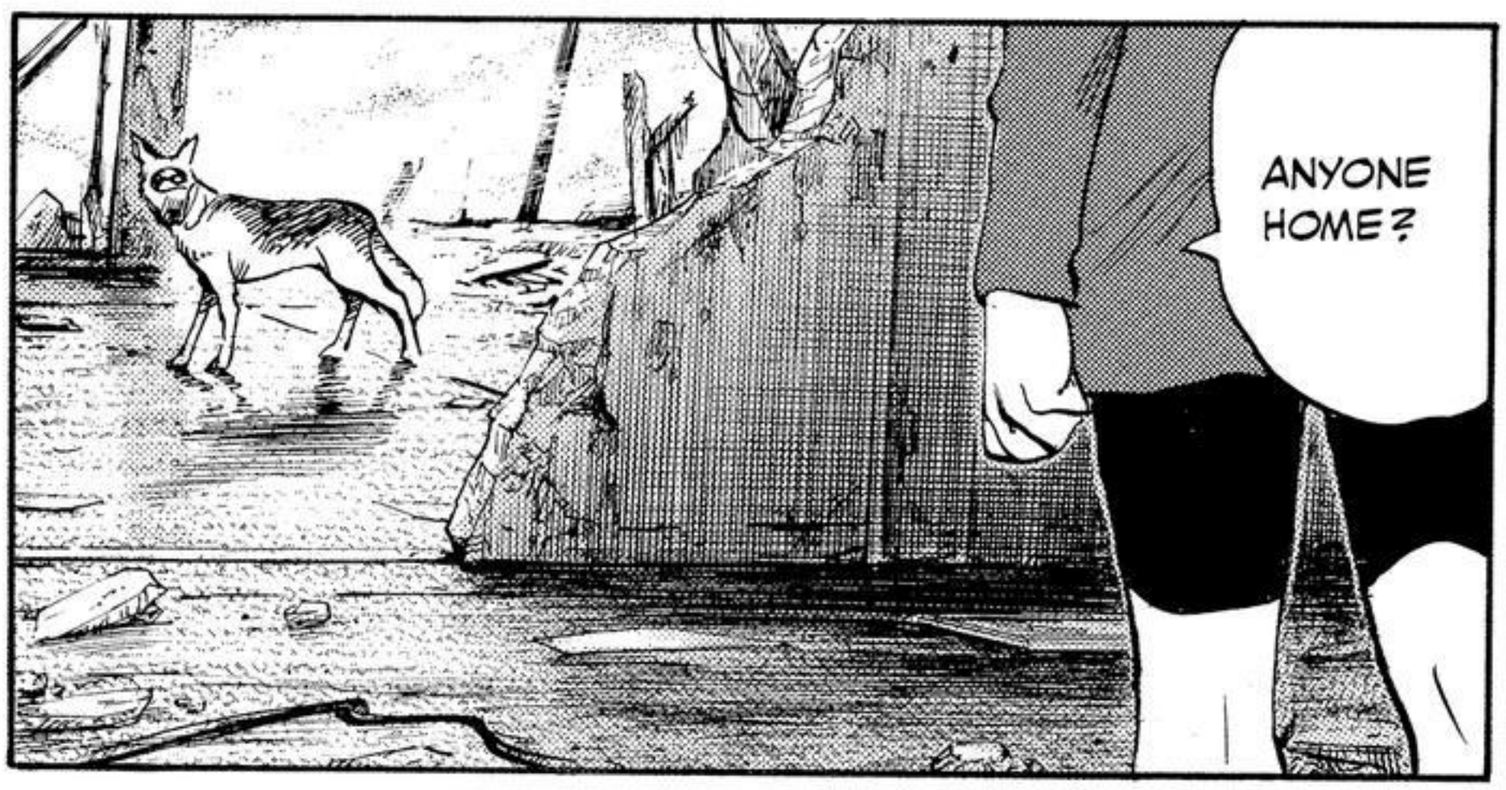
DASH
BOBBY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

OKAY... WE'LL STAY HERE...
GROWF!!





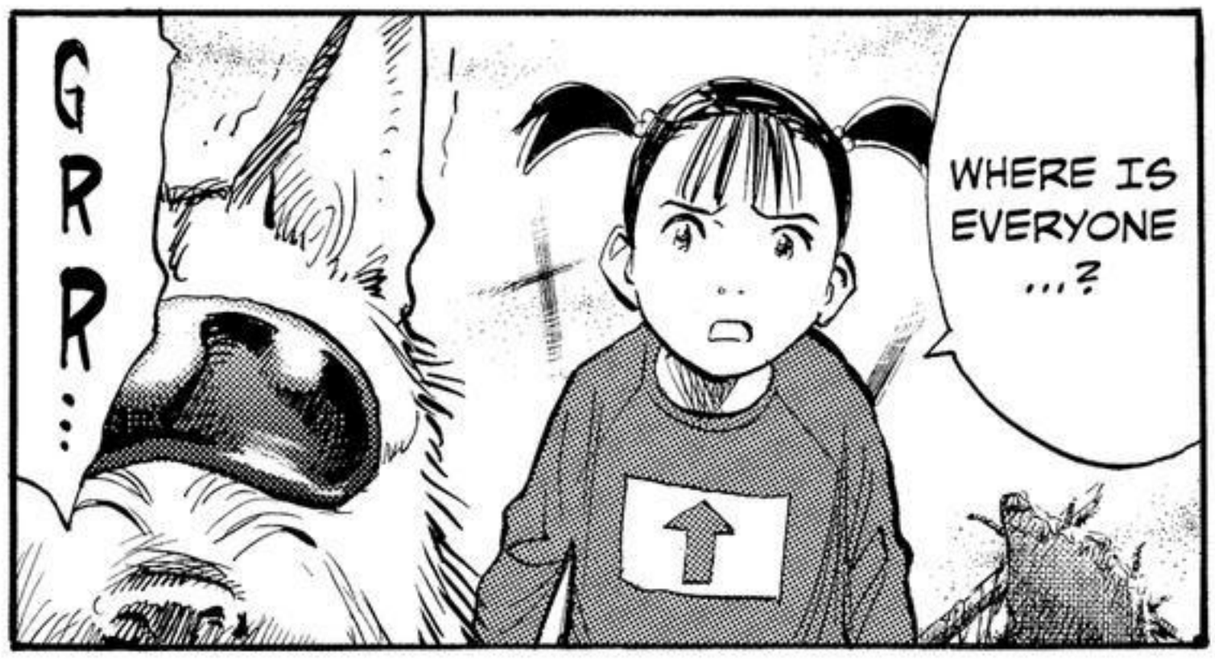


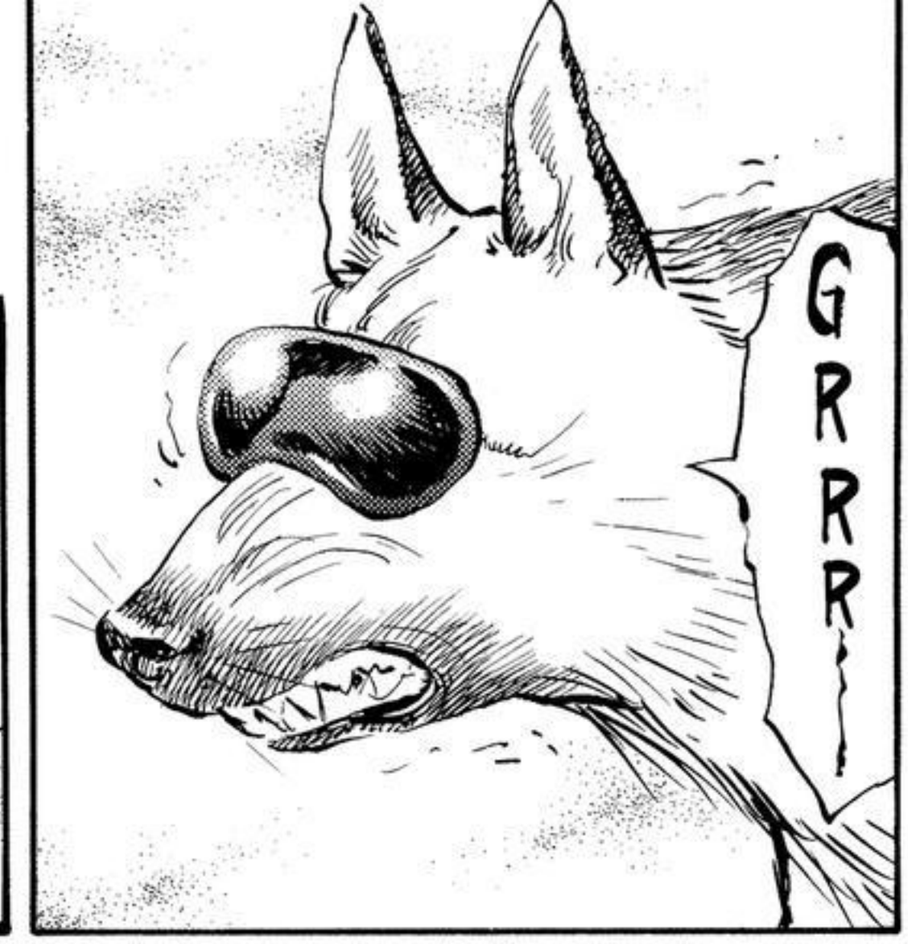

ANYONE HOME?

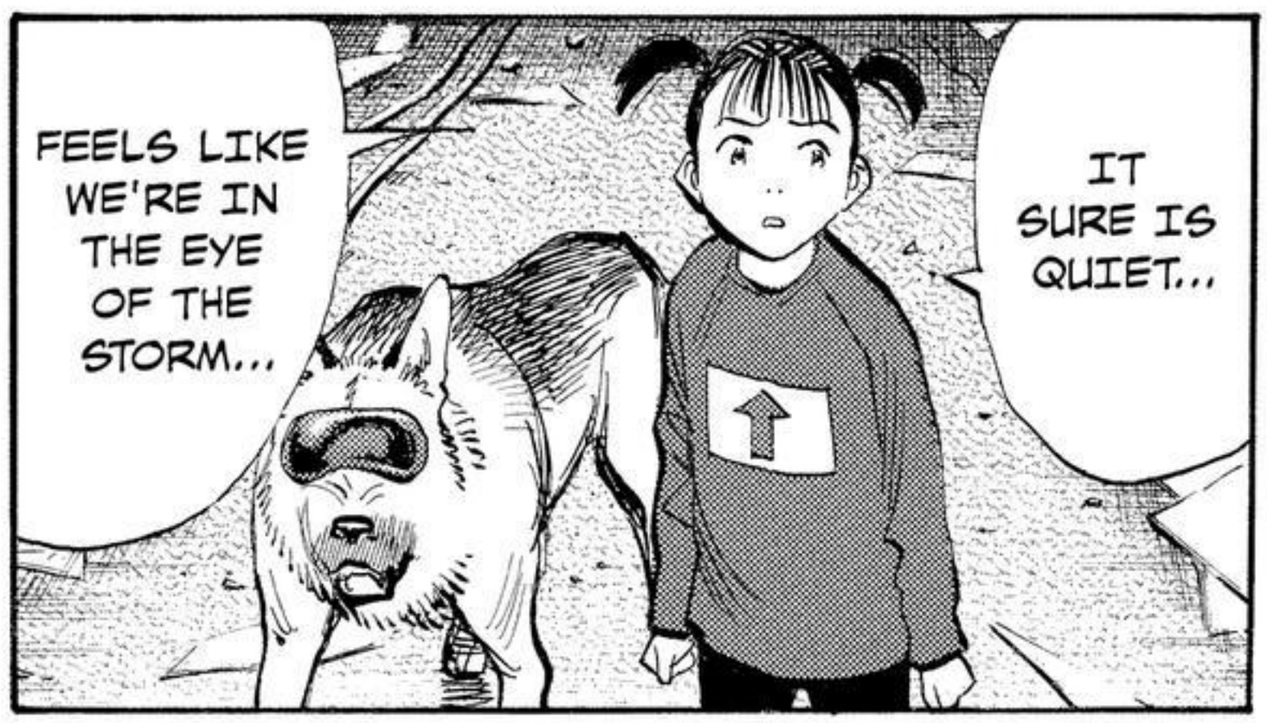
?!

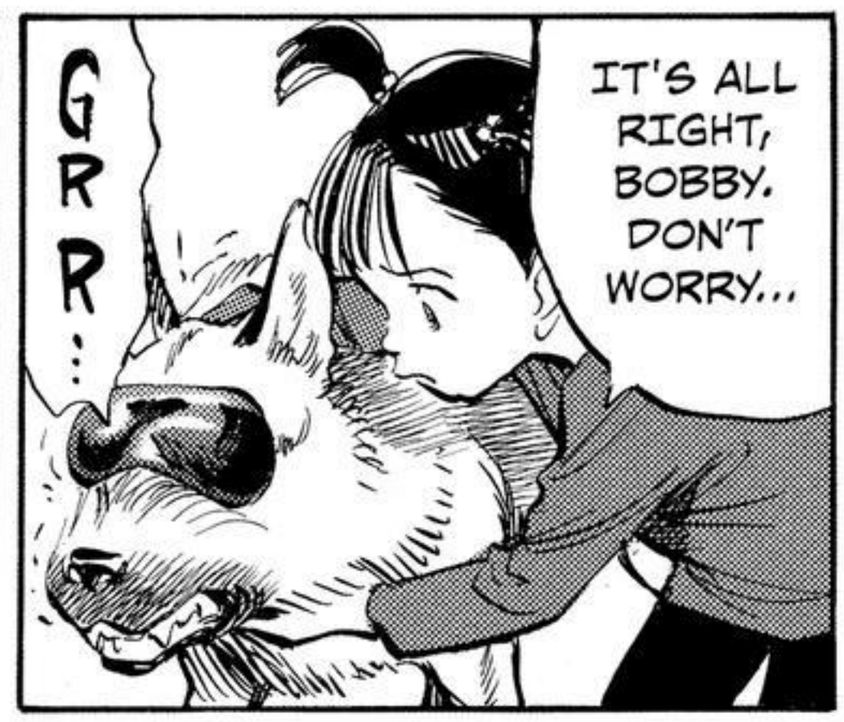
BOBBY! YOU OKAY?

BOBBY?


GRR...
WHERE IS EVERYONE ...?


GRRR!


FEELS LIKE WE'RE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM...
IT SURE IS QUIET...


GRR...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BOBBY. DON'T WORRY...

GRR

I GUESS EVERYONE'S IN THE BASEMENT, HUH...

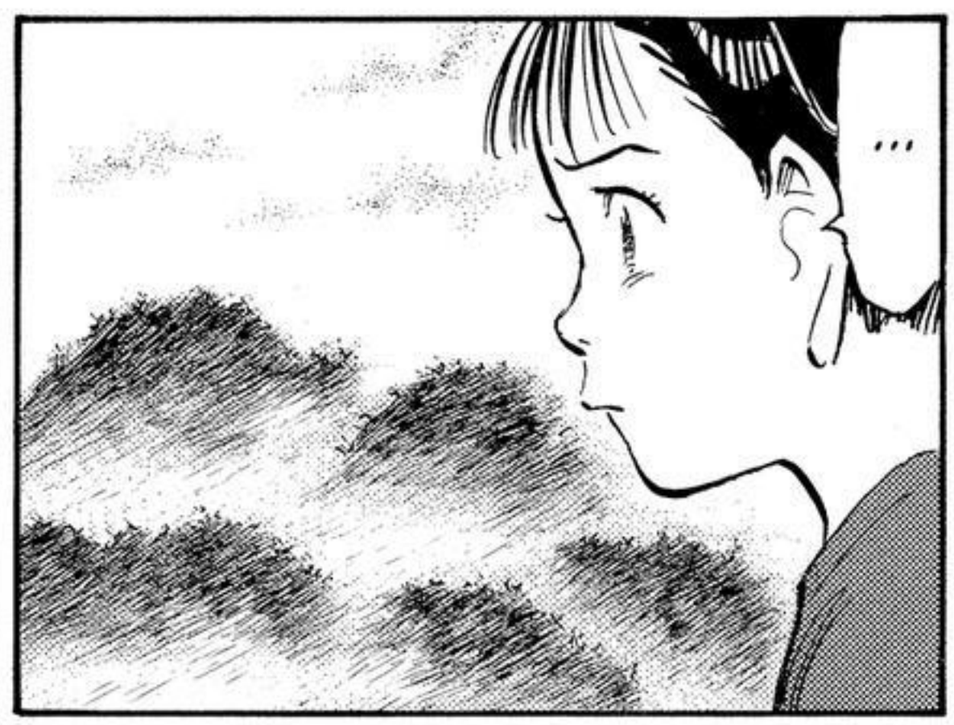
GRRR...

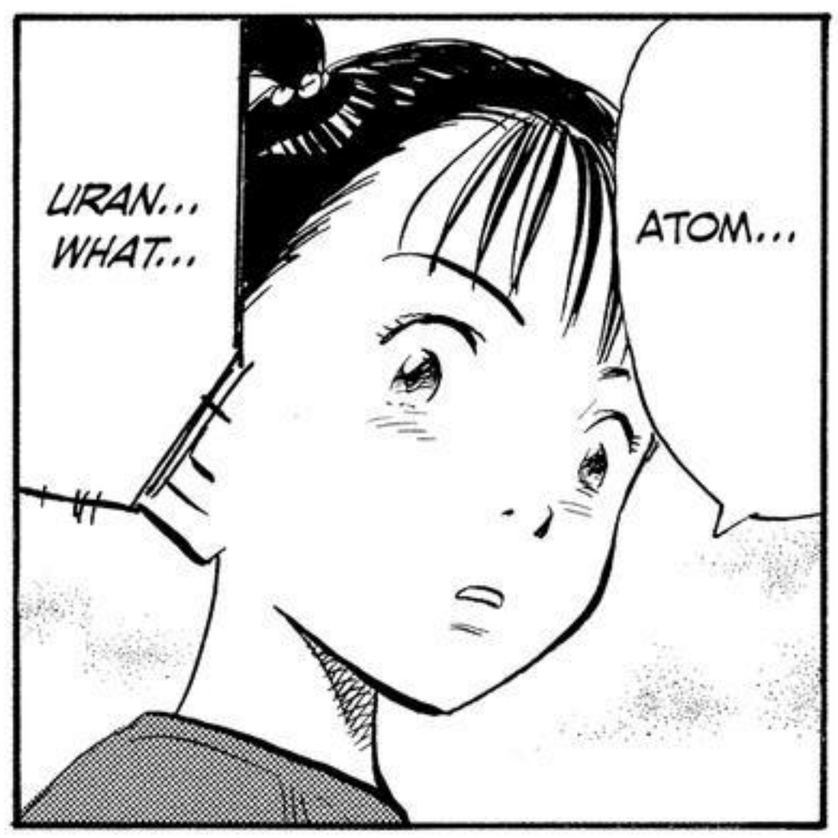
WHAT IS IT?

GRRR...

BOBBY?

ATOM, IS THAT YOU?
URAN...


...

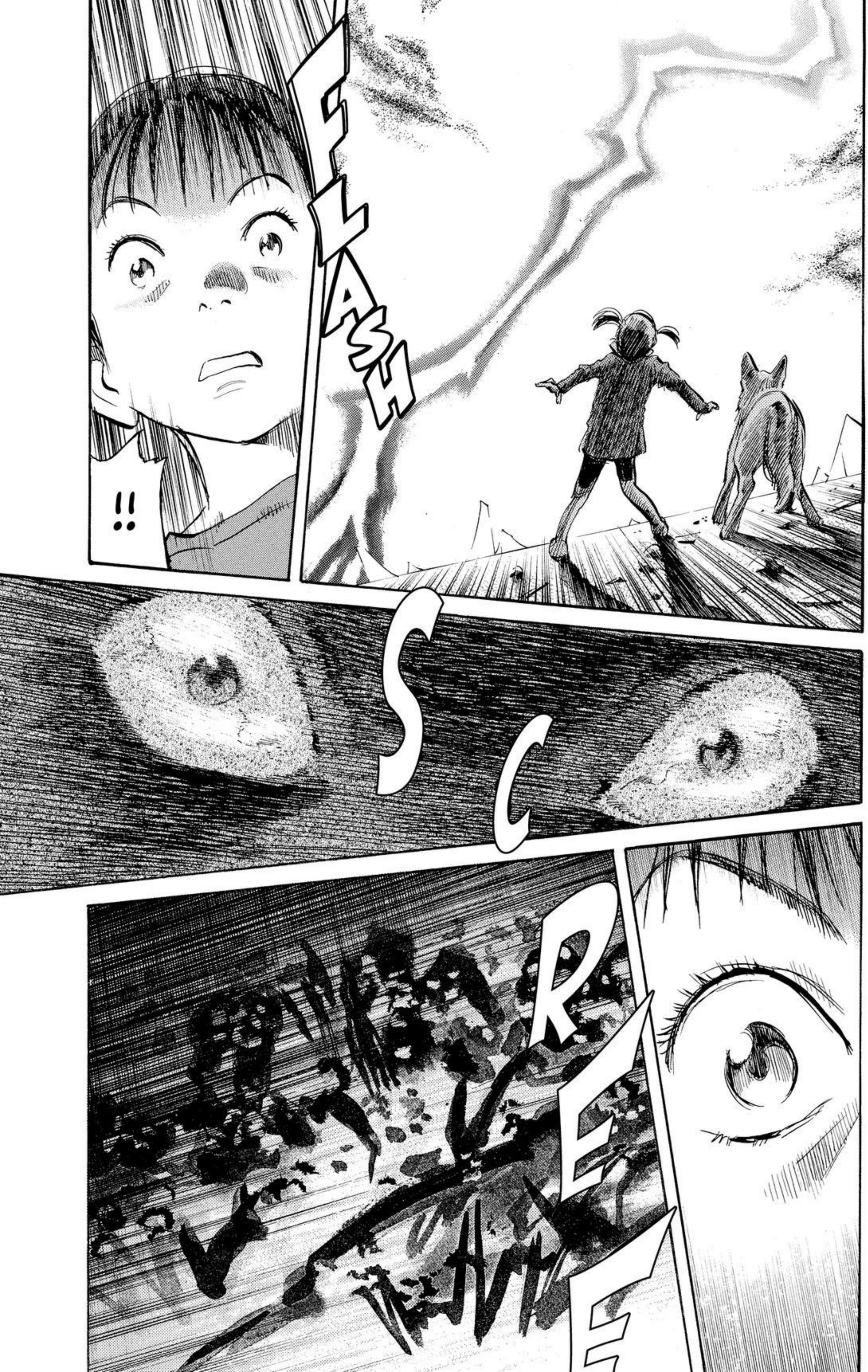

URAN... WHAT...
ATOM...

I'LL BE THERE SOON...
GRRR...

I'M HEADED TOWARD YOU...

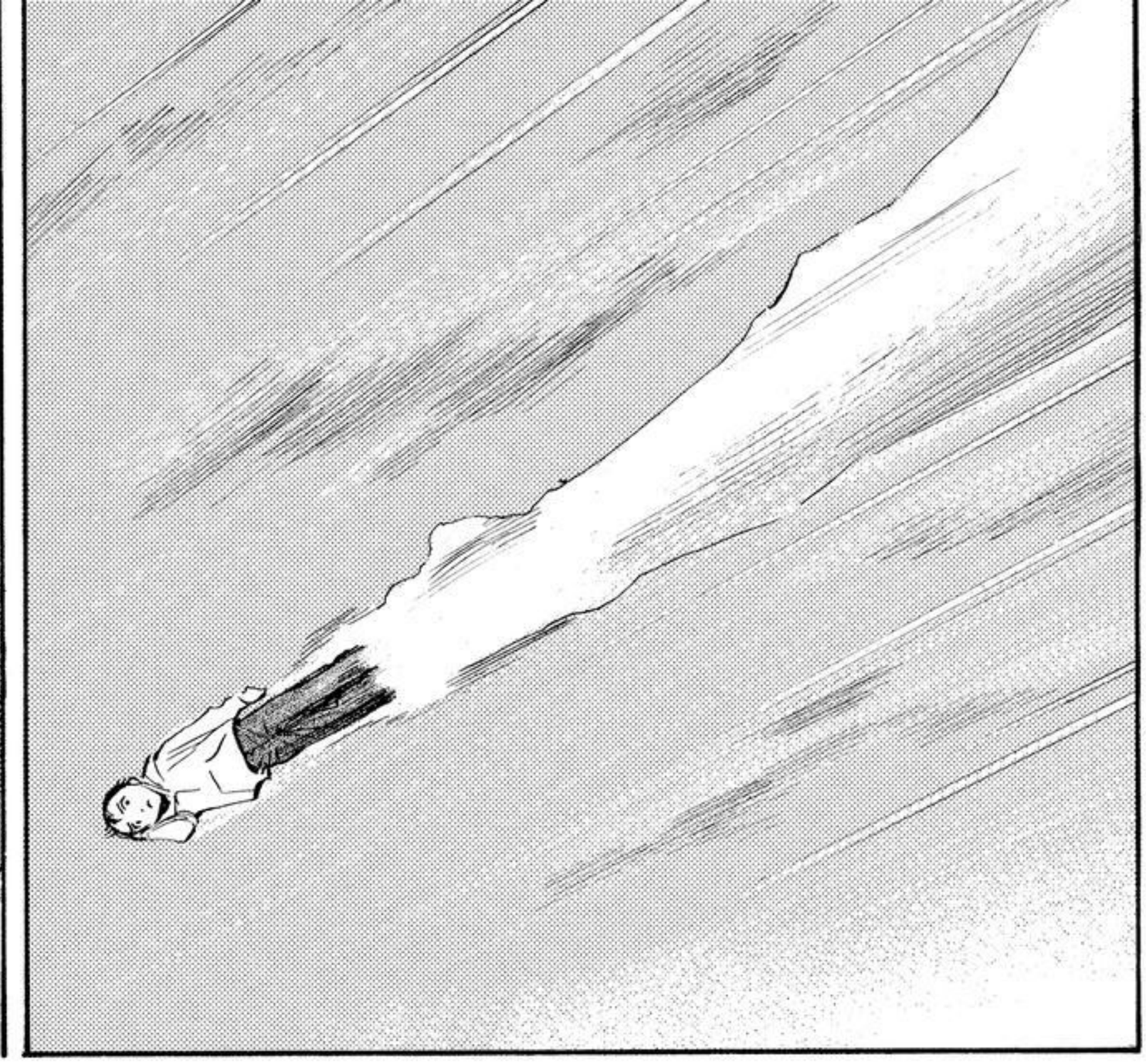
ATOM, YOUR SIGNAL'S BREAKING UP...

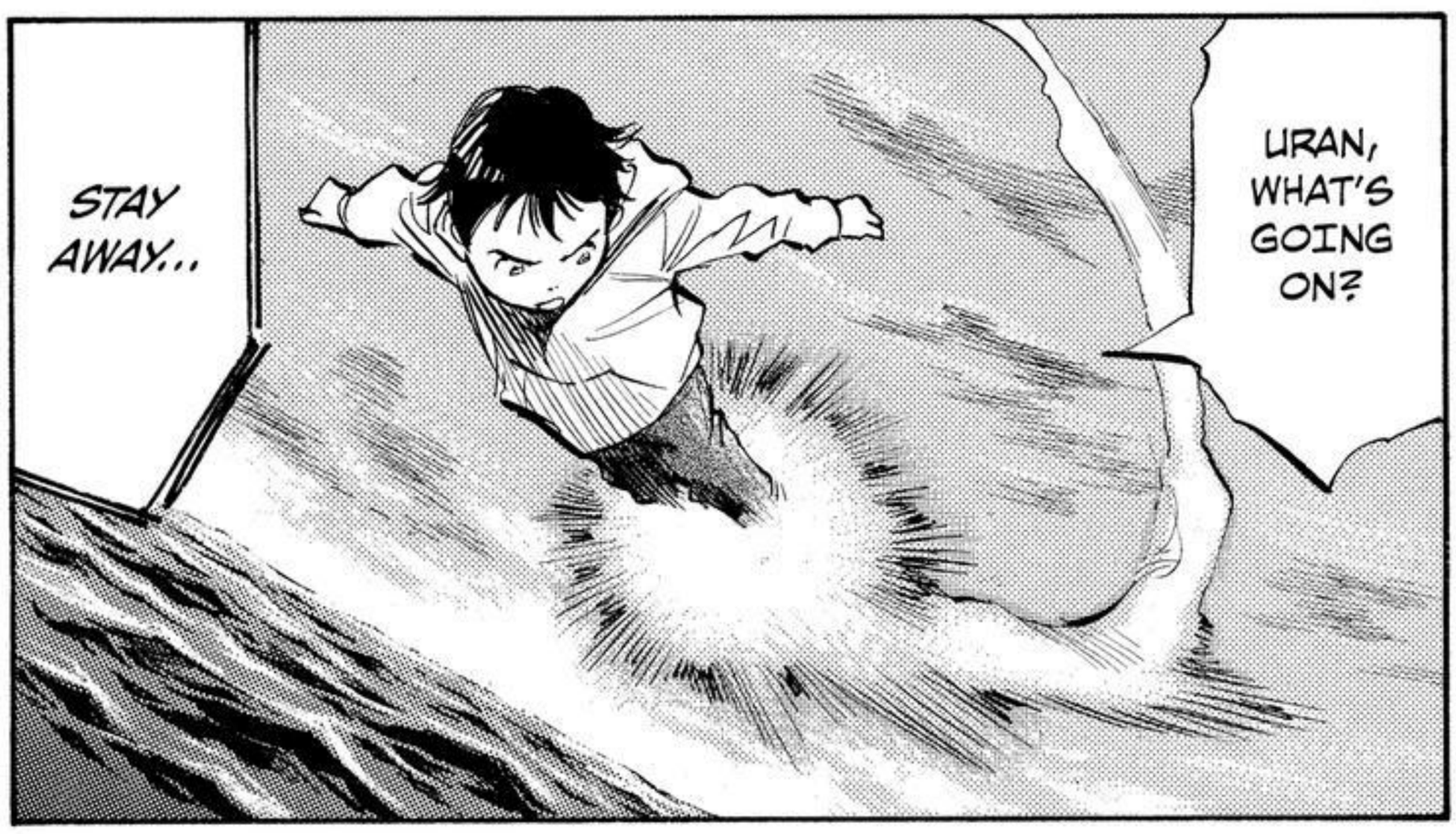
GRRRR


!!
SLASH
SCREE

SKK
WHA--?
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
500 ZEUS A BODY.

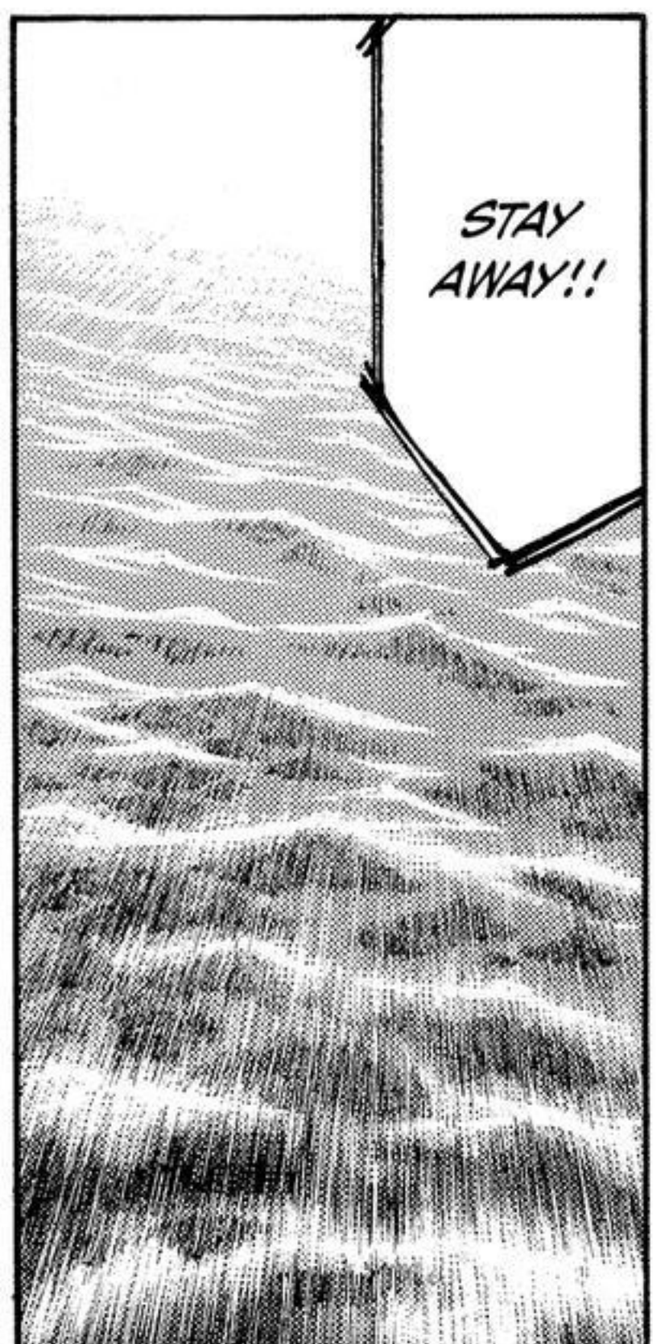
INSPECTOR GESICHT?



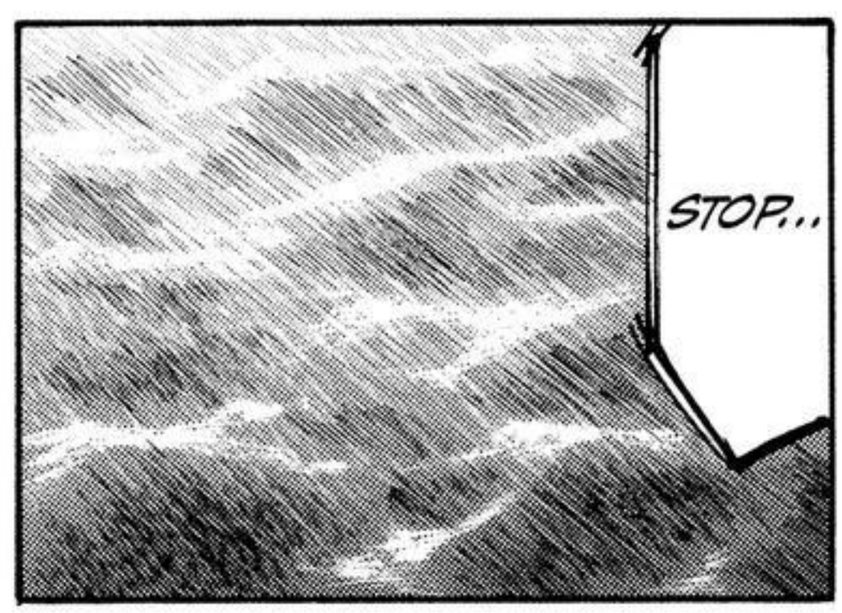

STAY AWAY...
URAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?

ATOM...
!!

!!


STAY AWAY!!

WHAT IS IT, URAN?


STOP...

HANG ON, URAN! I'M COMING!

NO!!

STAY BACK, ATOM!!

THE... WHOLE OCEAN ...
IT'S... LIKE A GIANT WALL...

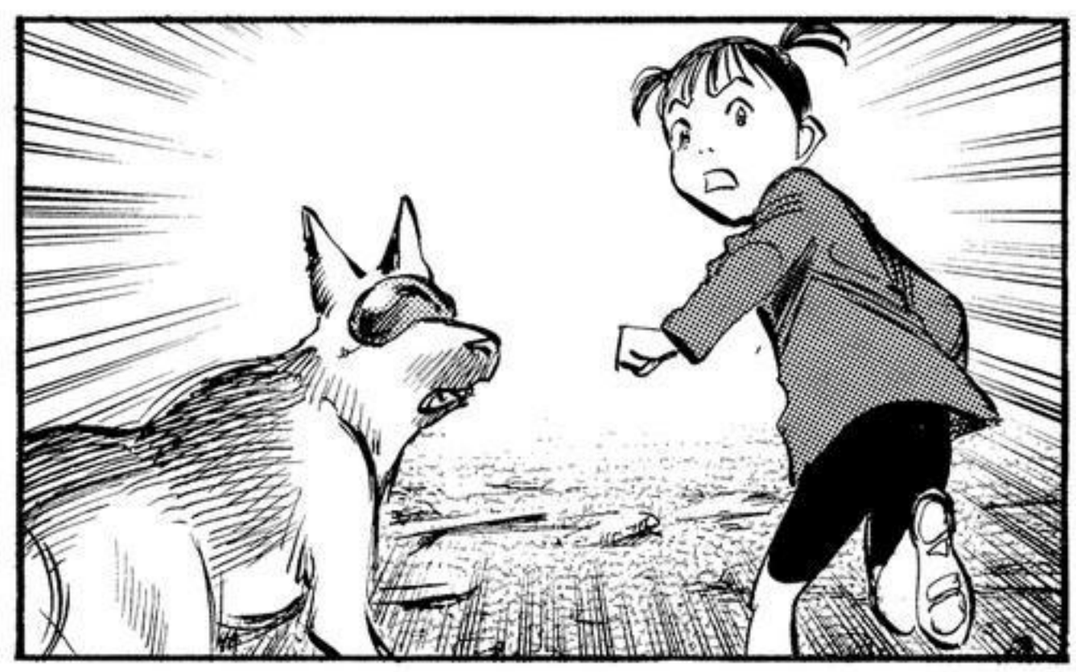
TAKE BOBBY AND HEAD FOR THE SHELTER!

RUN, URAN! RUN FOR IT!

B- BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU...?
OKAY...

JUST GO!!

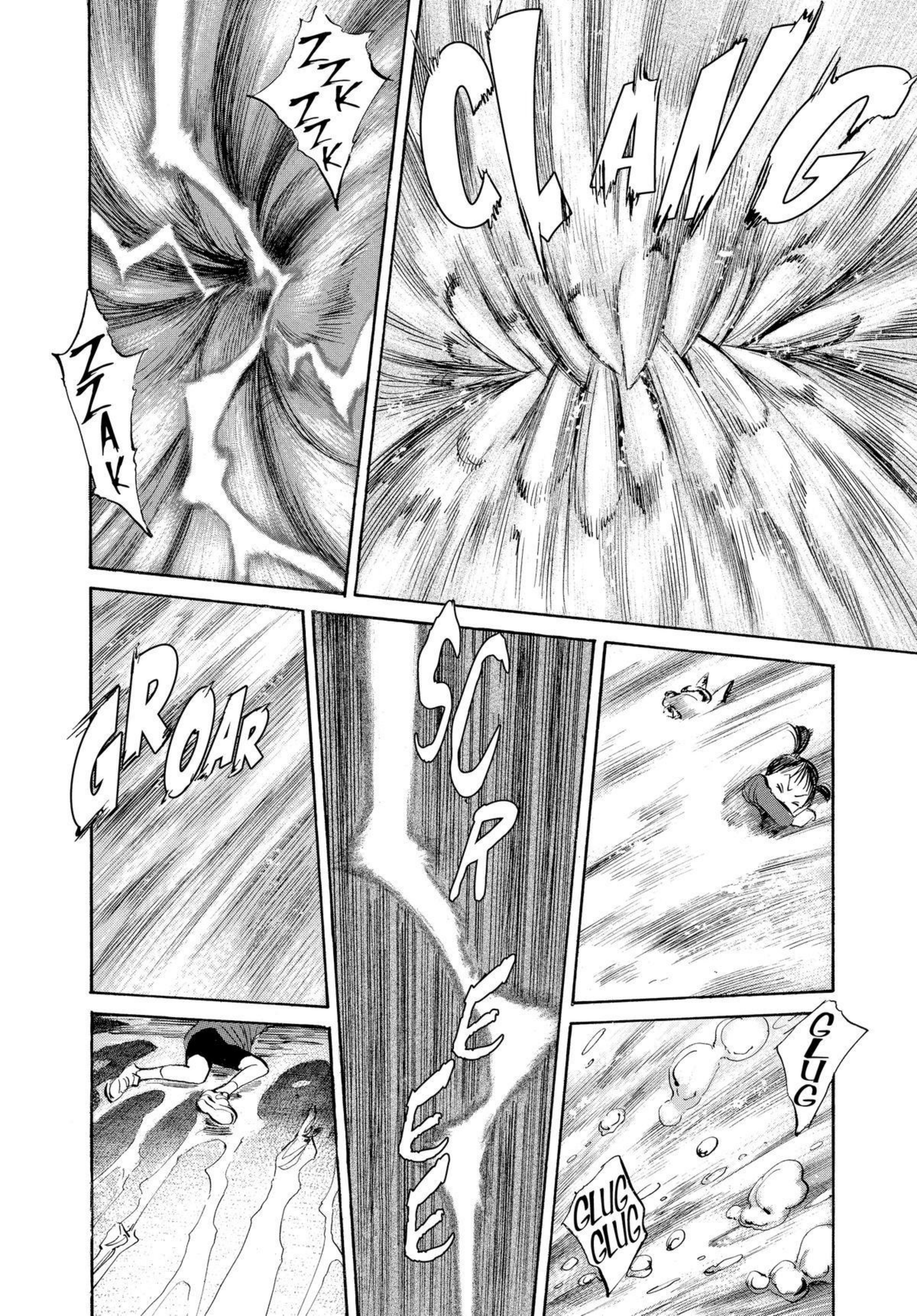
WHAT ?!



ATOM, WHAT IS THAT...?!
STAY BACK, URAN!!
ZOOM!

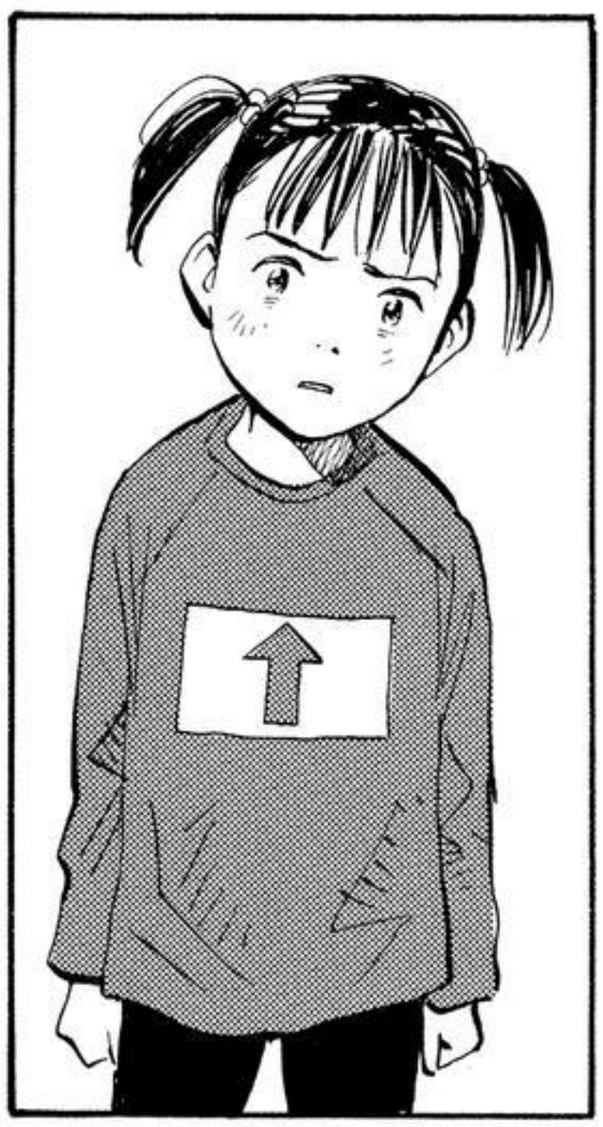
SHOOM

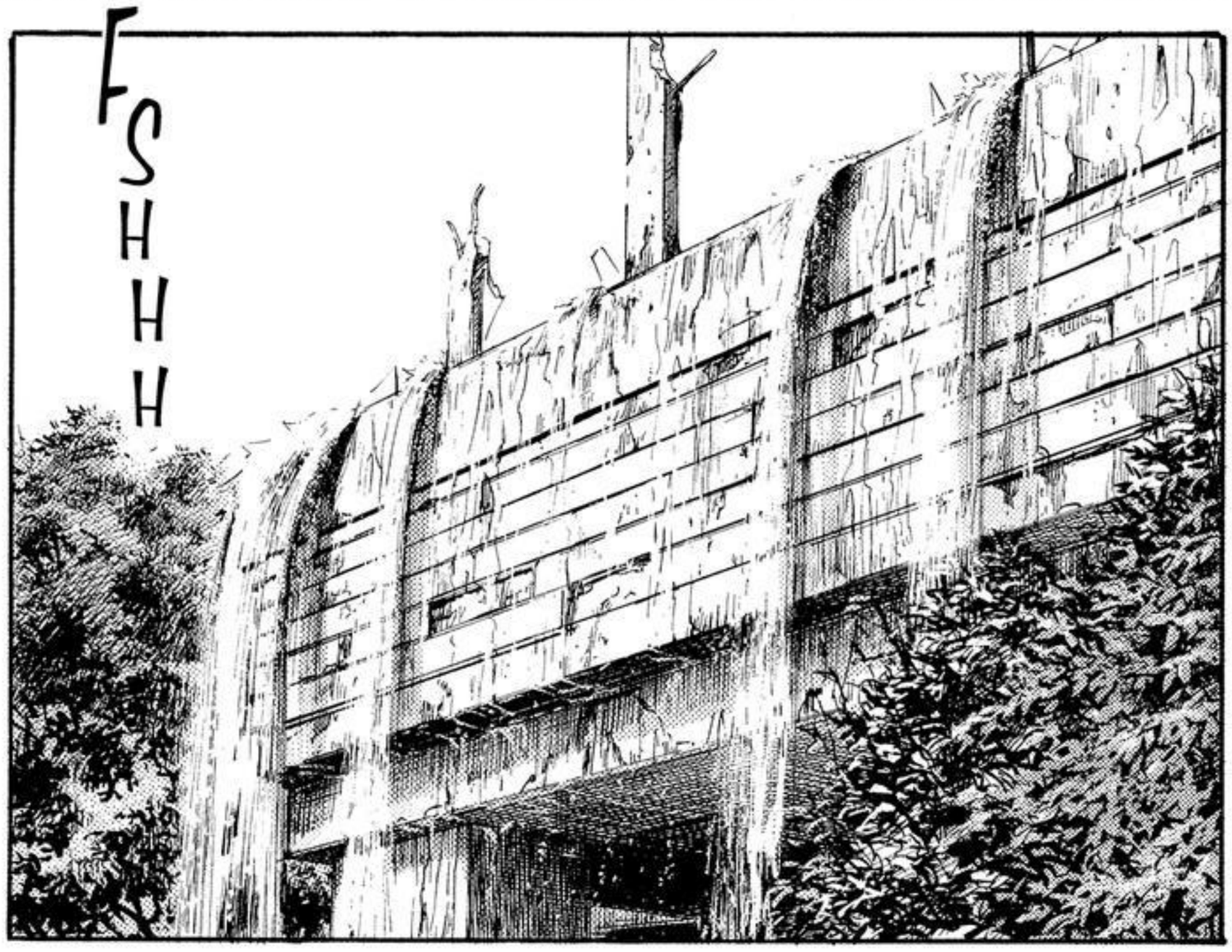
ATOM!!


ZZZK
ZZZK
ZZAK
CLANG
GROAR
SURREEE
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

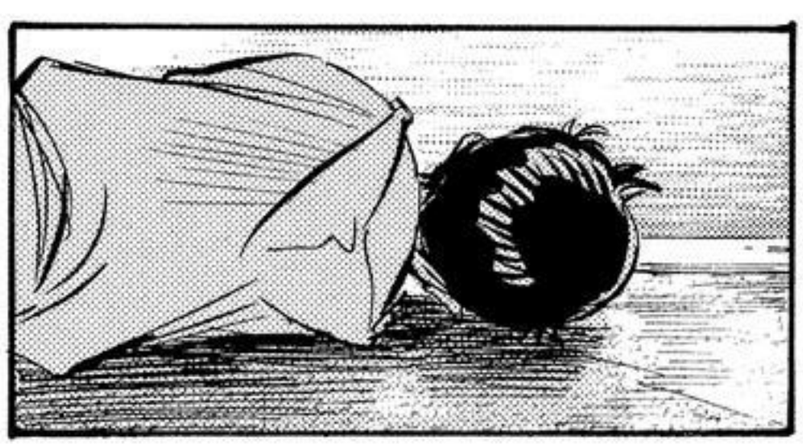
AGH...

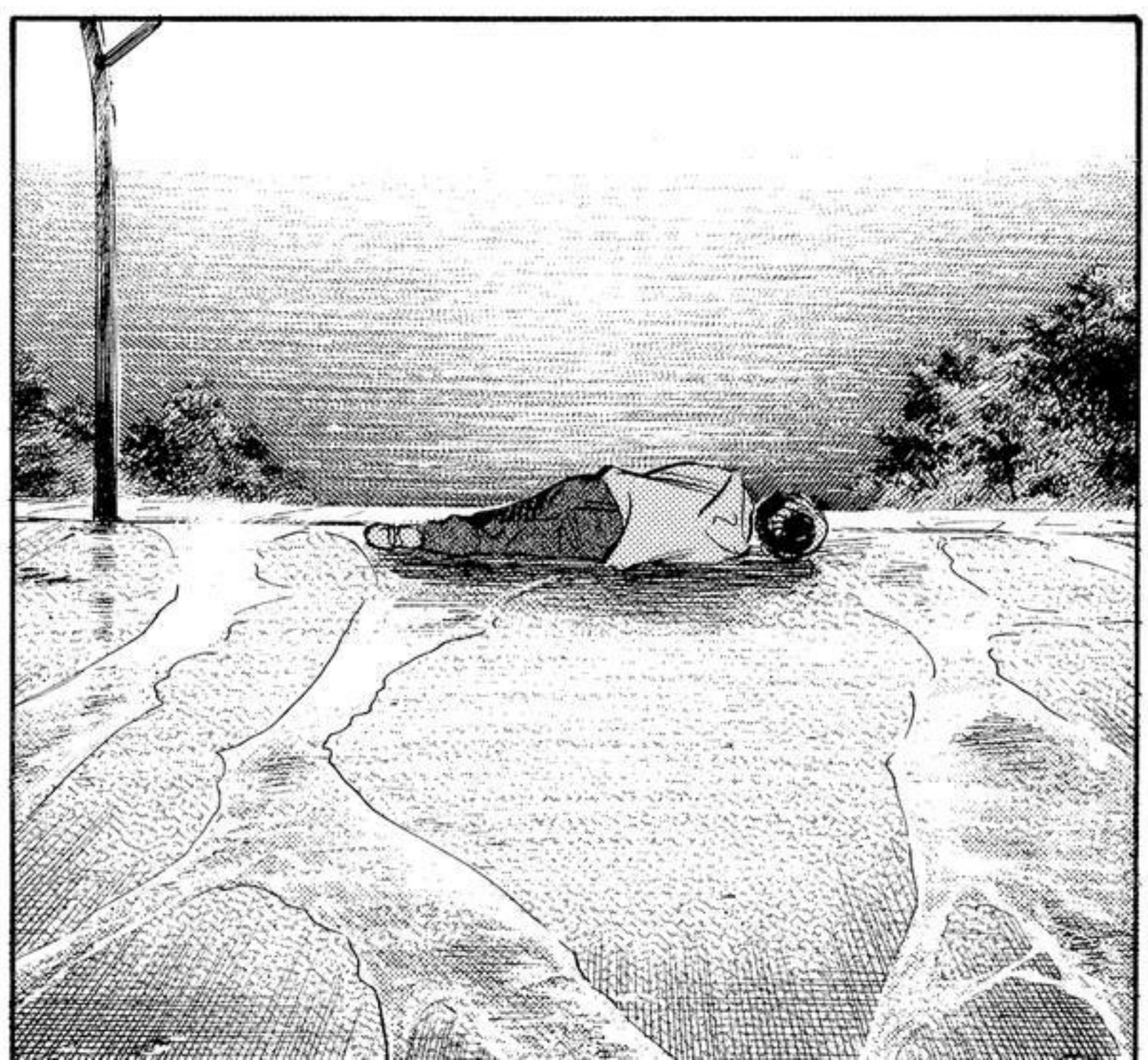
OWW...

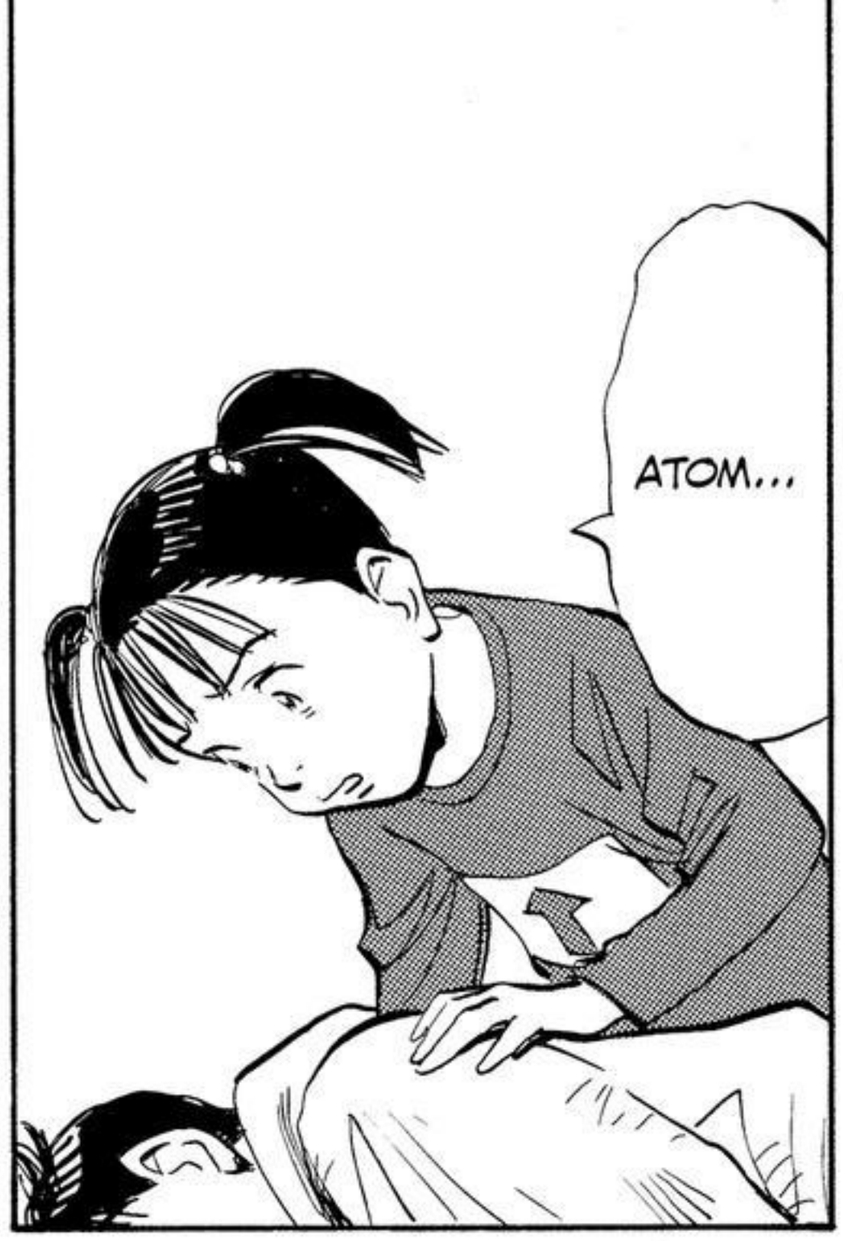


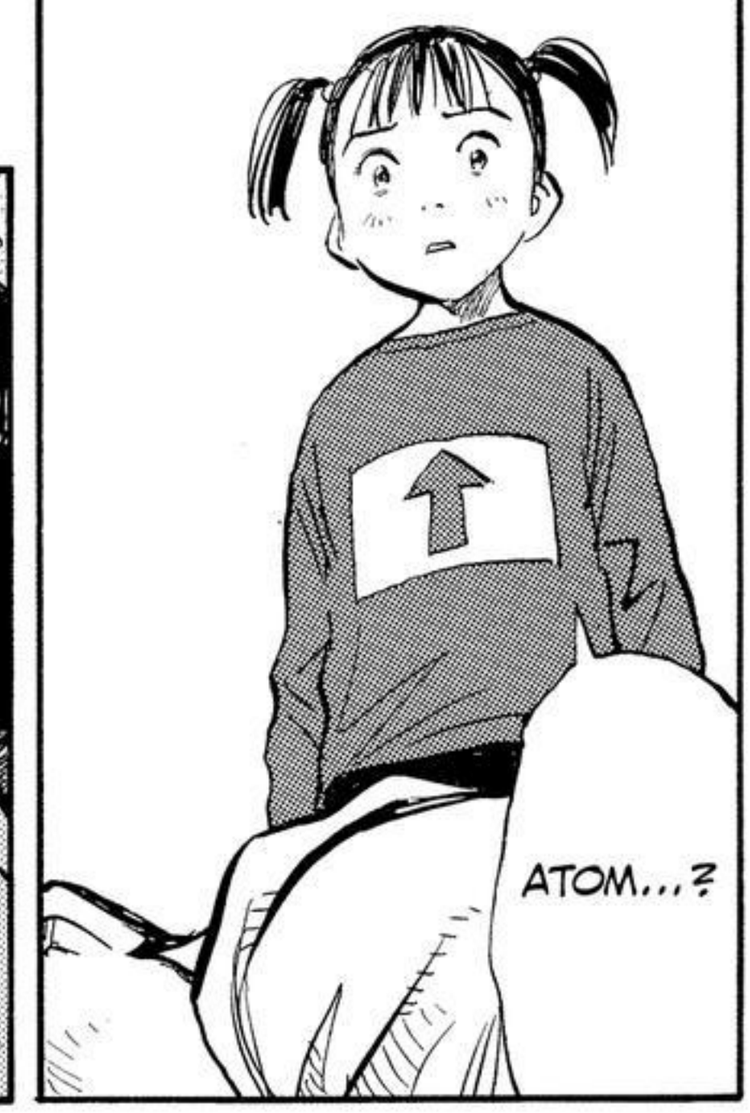

FSHHH

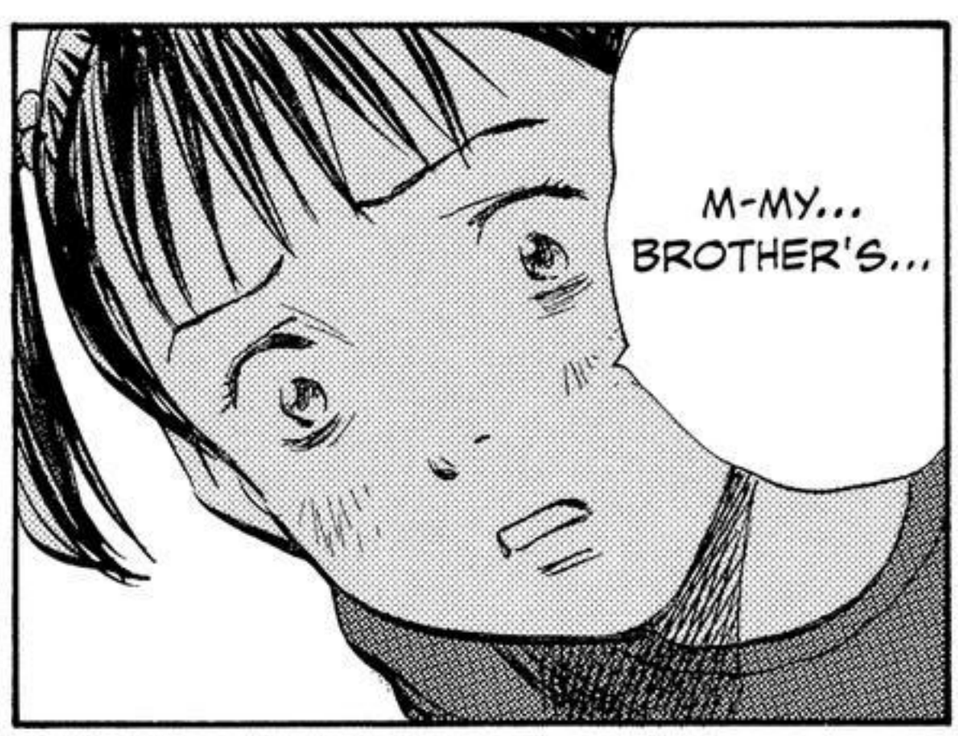
ATOM?

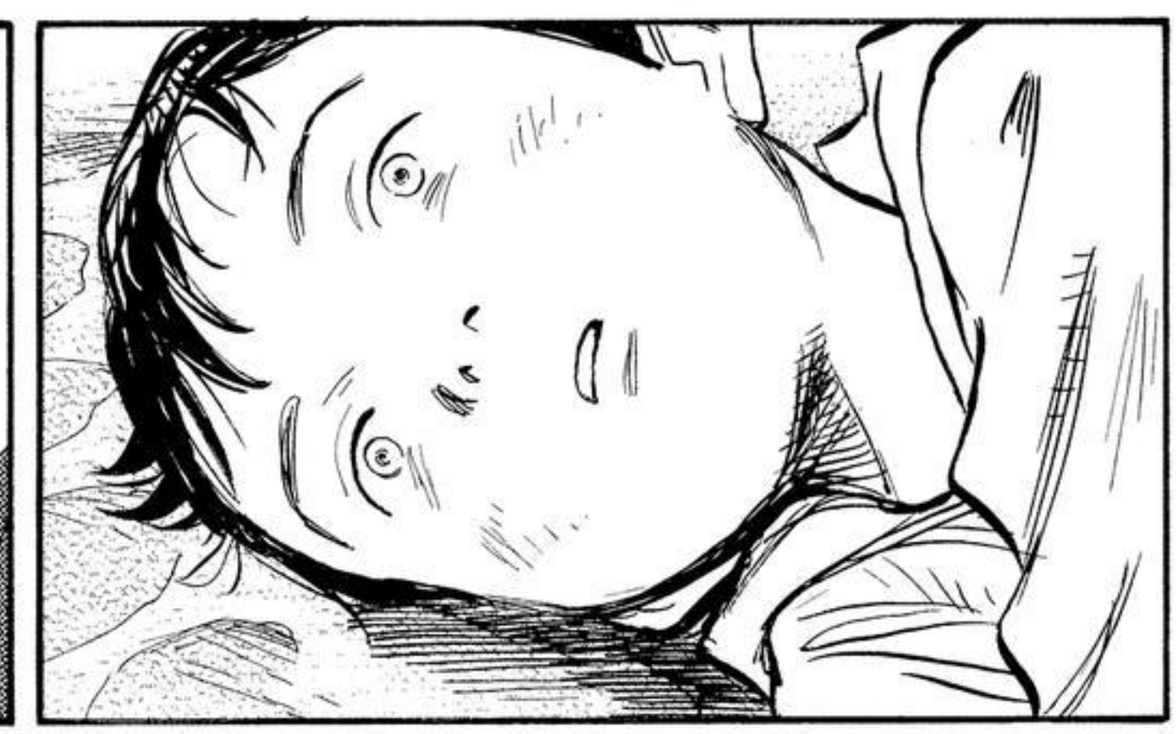





ATOM...

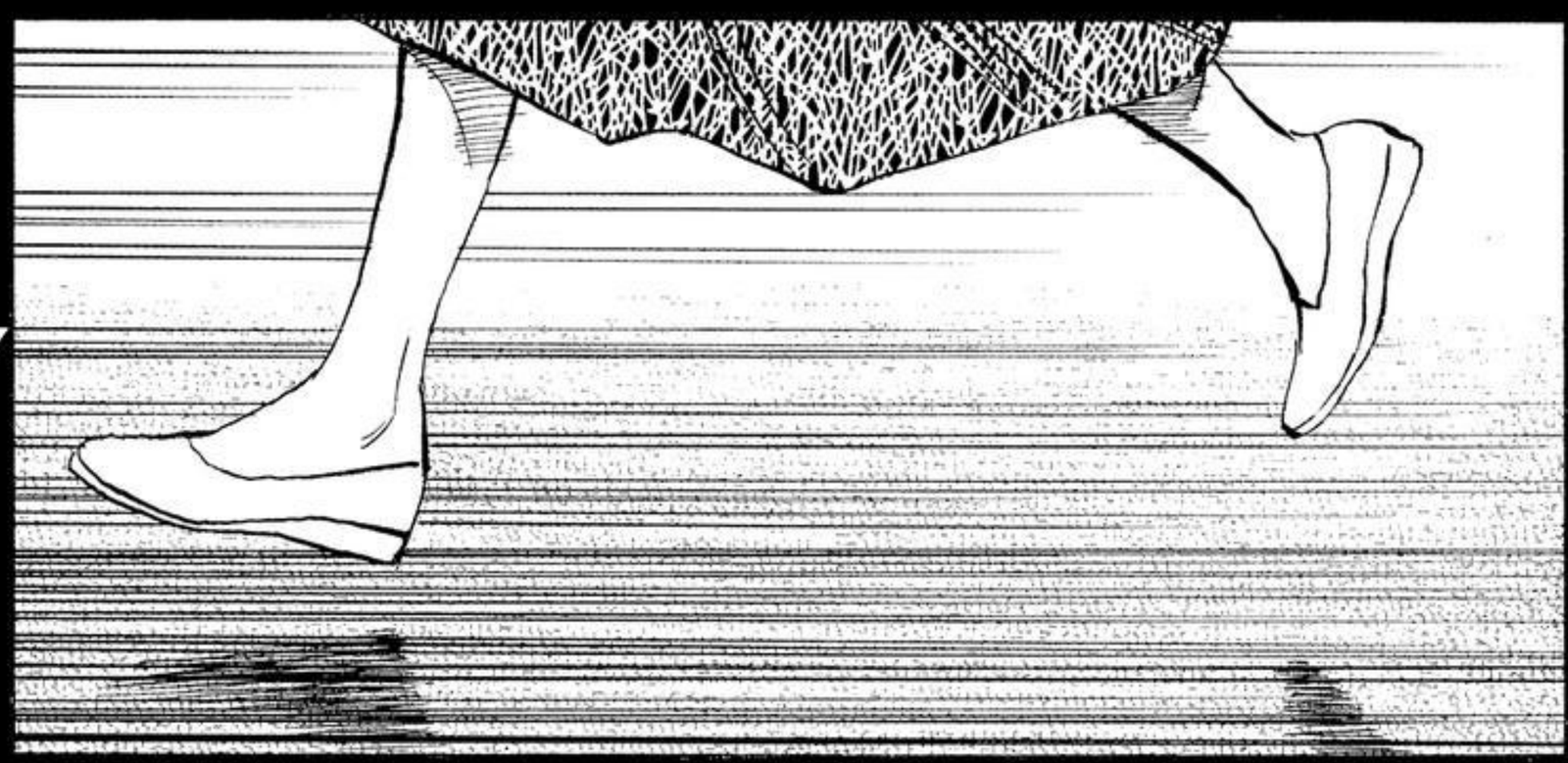

ATOM...?

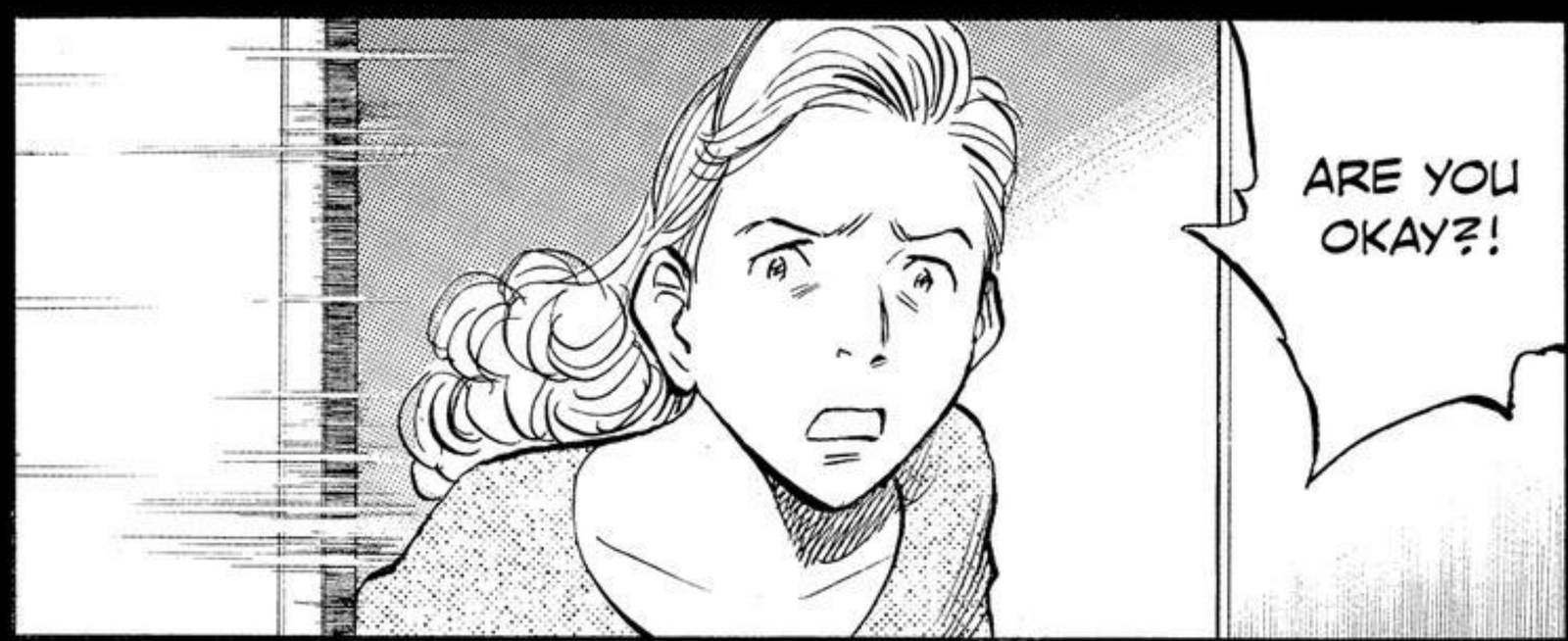

M-MY...
BROTHER'S...



...DEAD...!

Act 27 A DIFFERENT DREAM





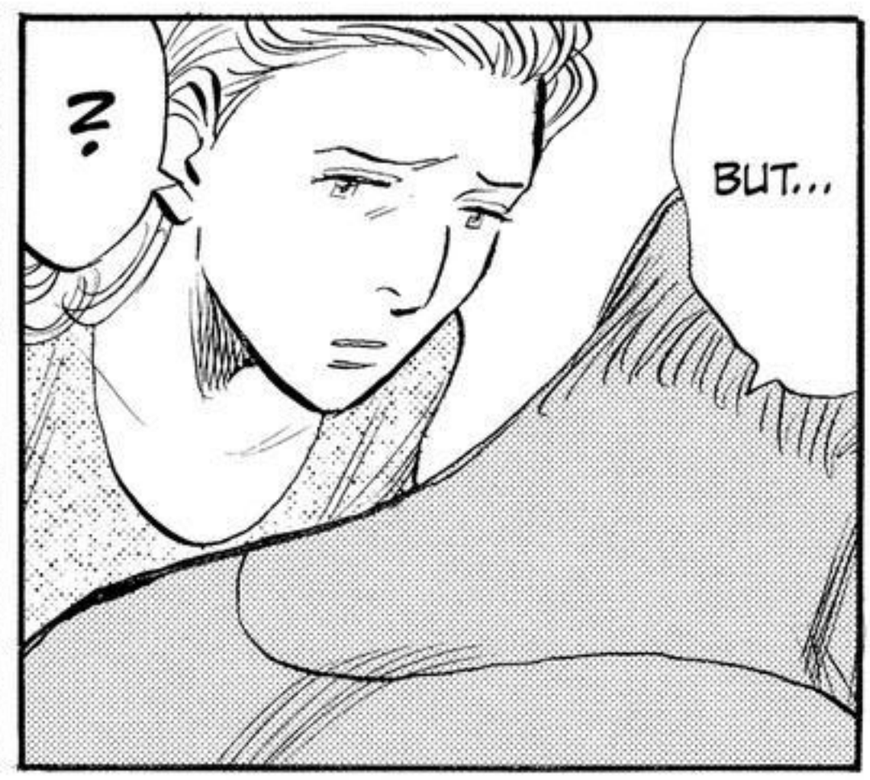
RAAAAAH!!

ANOTHER BAD DREAM...?

DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE FINE...
UH...

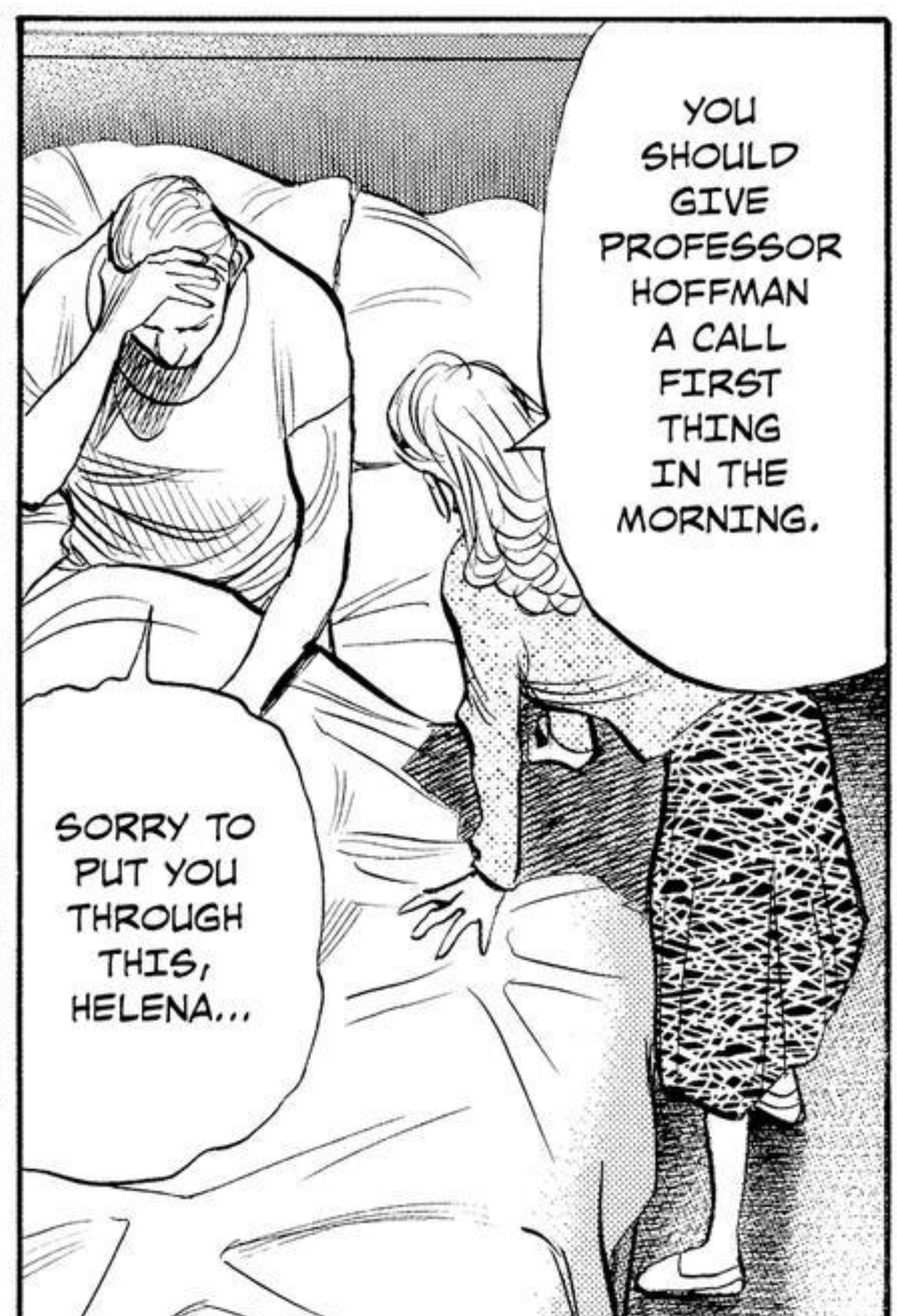
HUF
HUF

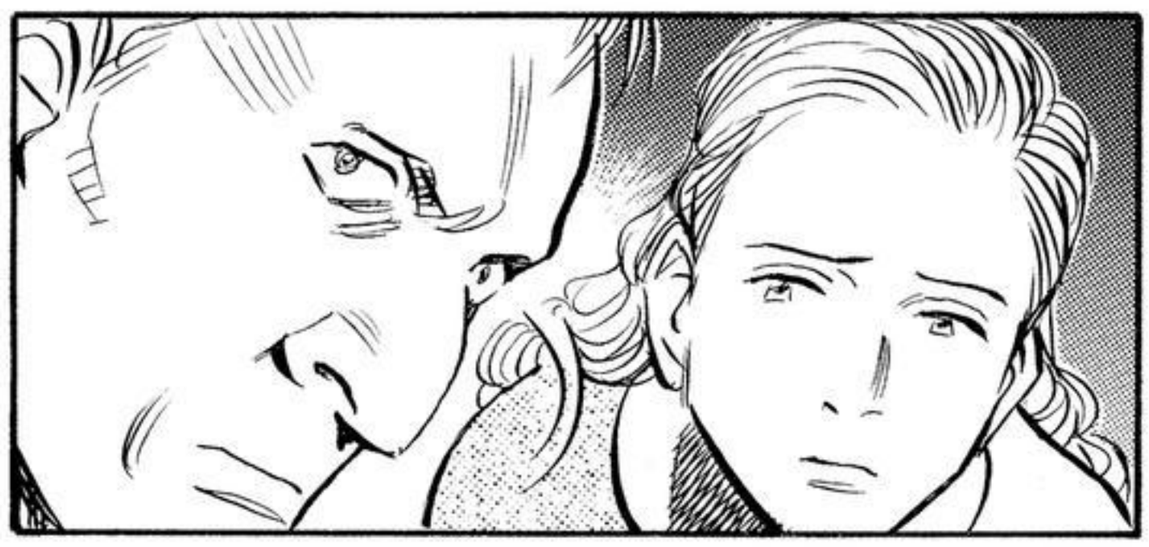
DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL ONE...
IT WAS DIFFERENT ...


?
BUT...

YOU WERE STILL AWAKE?

I STILL HAVE A FEW DRAWINGS TO FINISH BEFORE WE LEAVE.
YES, OUR VACATION STARTS TOMORROW, YOU KNOW.

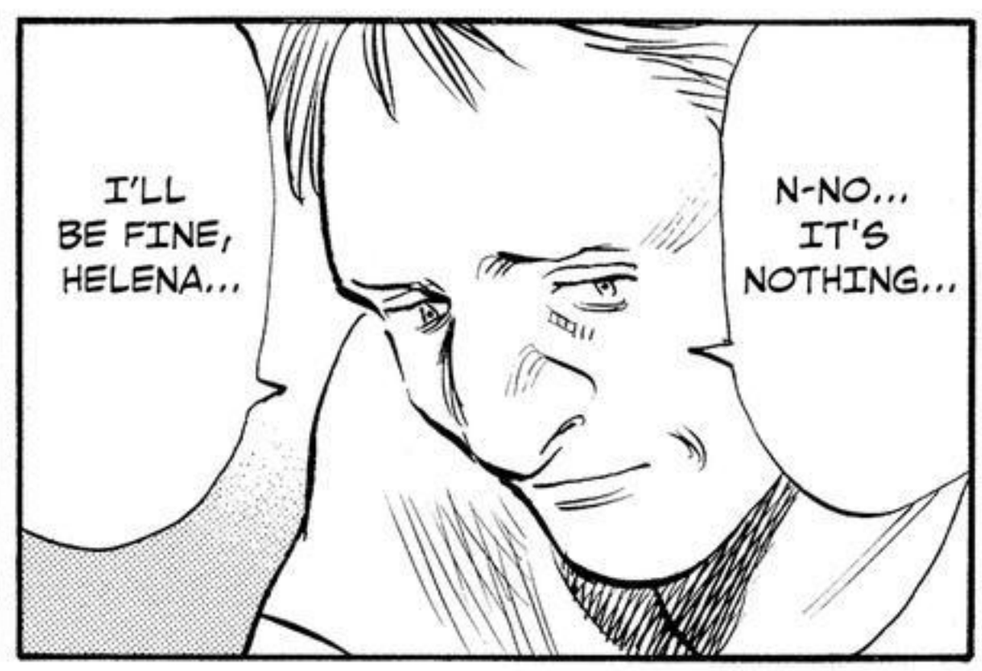

YOU SHOULD GIVE PROFESSOR HOFFMAN A CALL FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH THIS, HELENA...



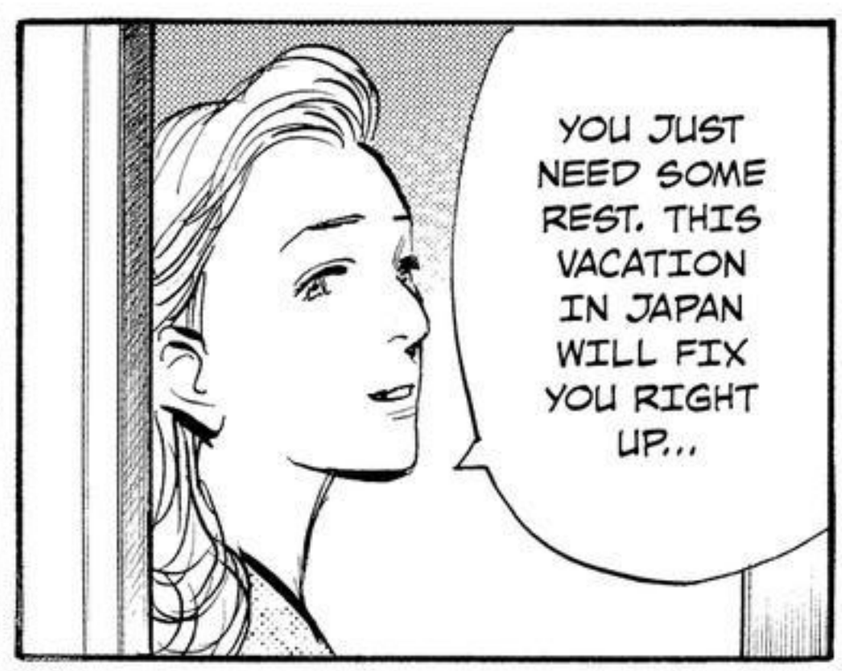
IS... SOME-THING WRONG, DEAR?

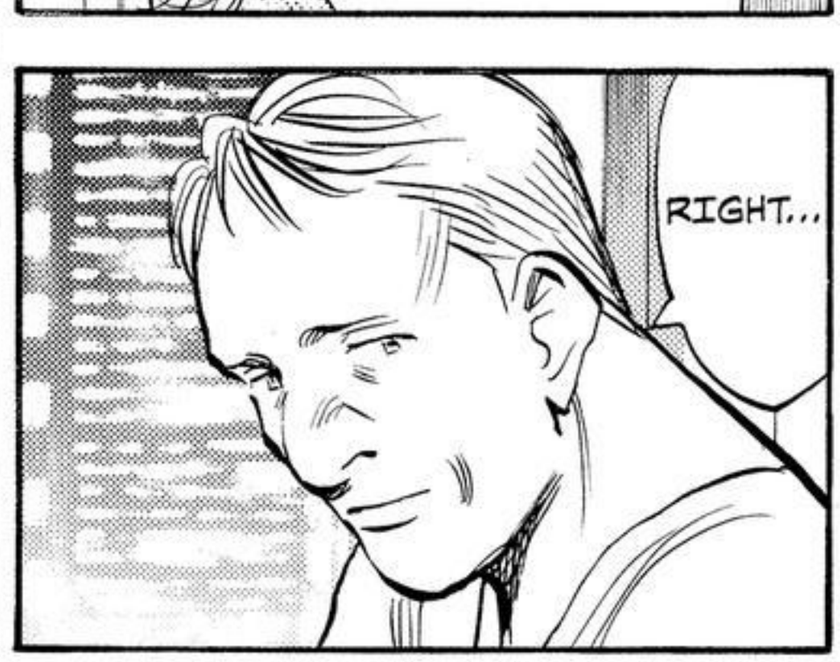
WANT ME TO STAY WITH YOU AWHILE?
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD SO MUCH WORK...

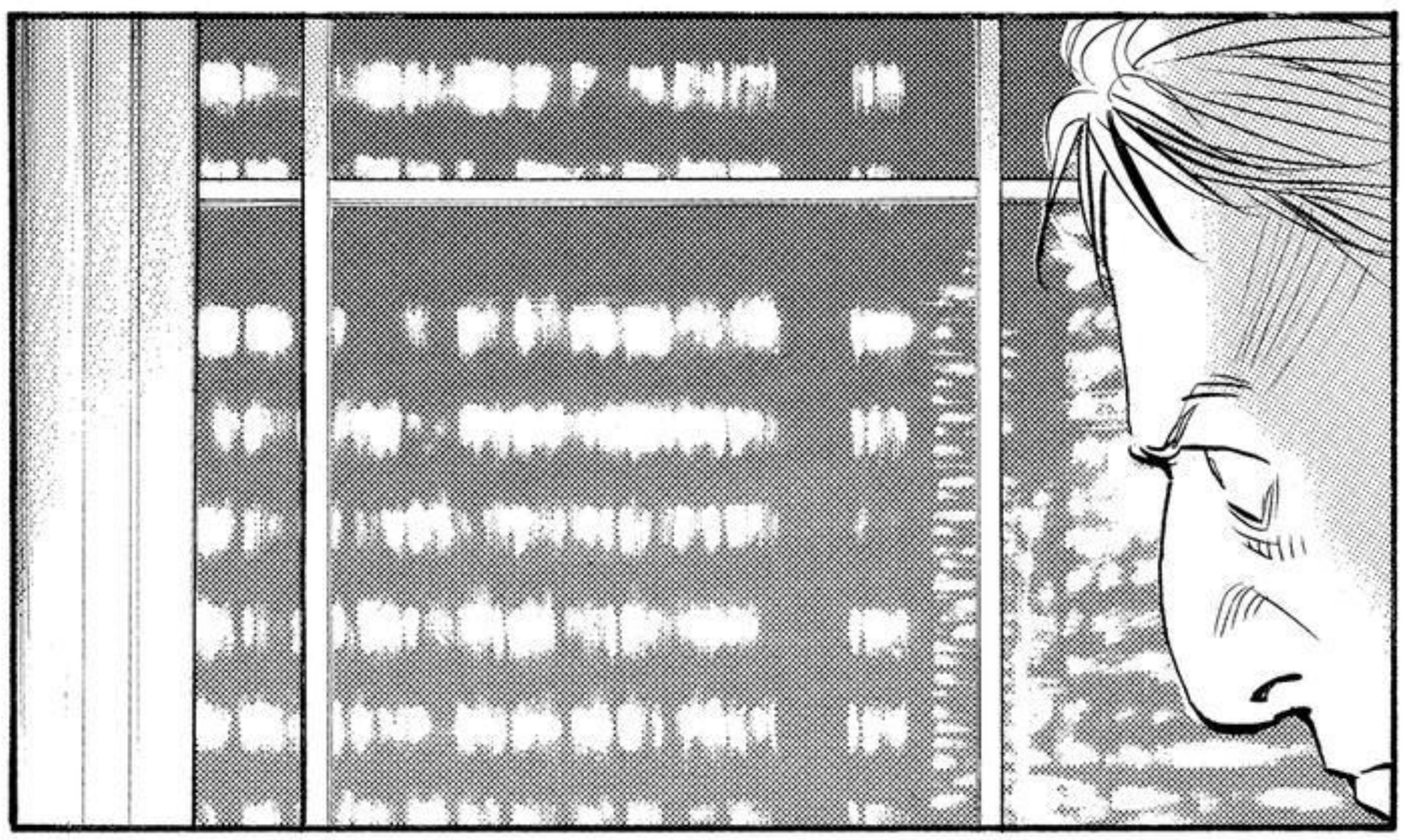
ALL RIGHT, THEN. SLEEP TIGHT.

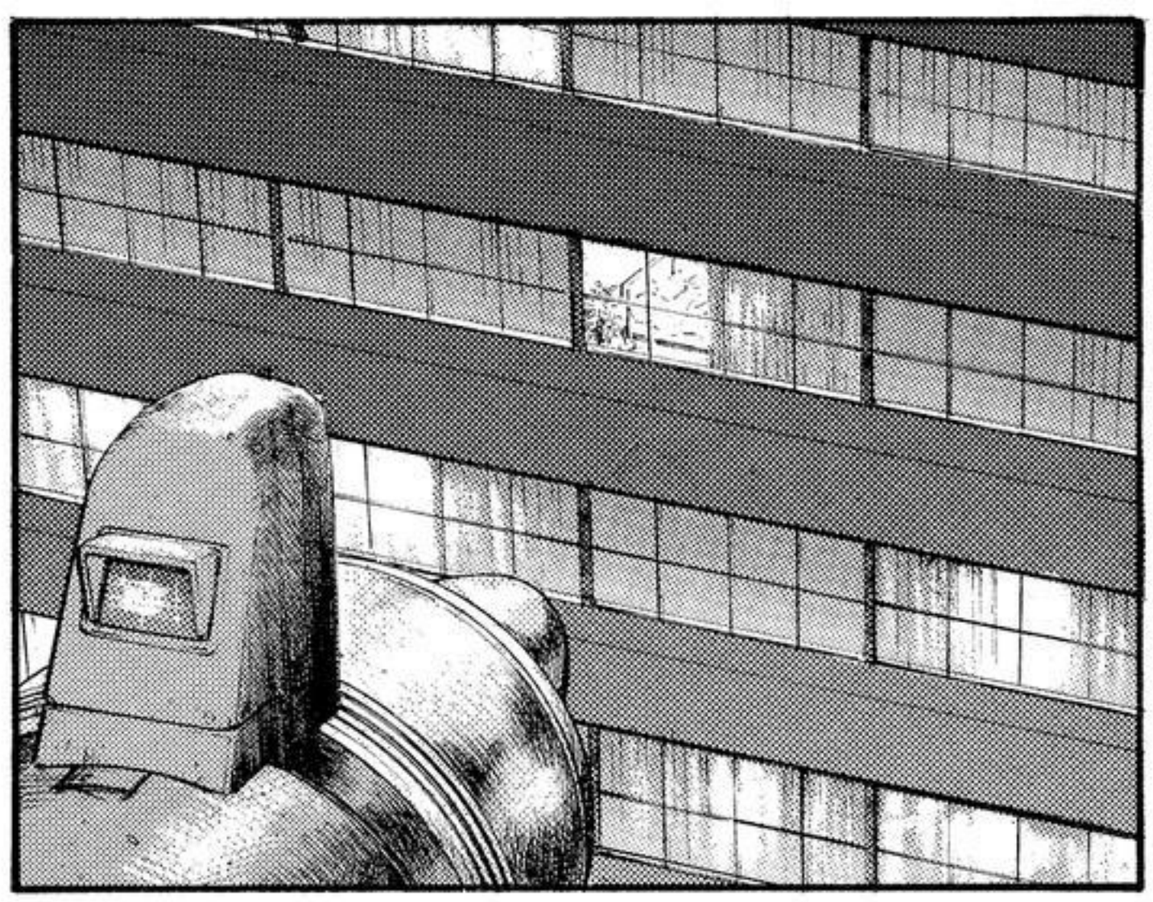

I'LL BE FINE, HELENA...
N-NO... IT'S NOTHING...

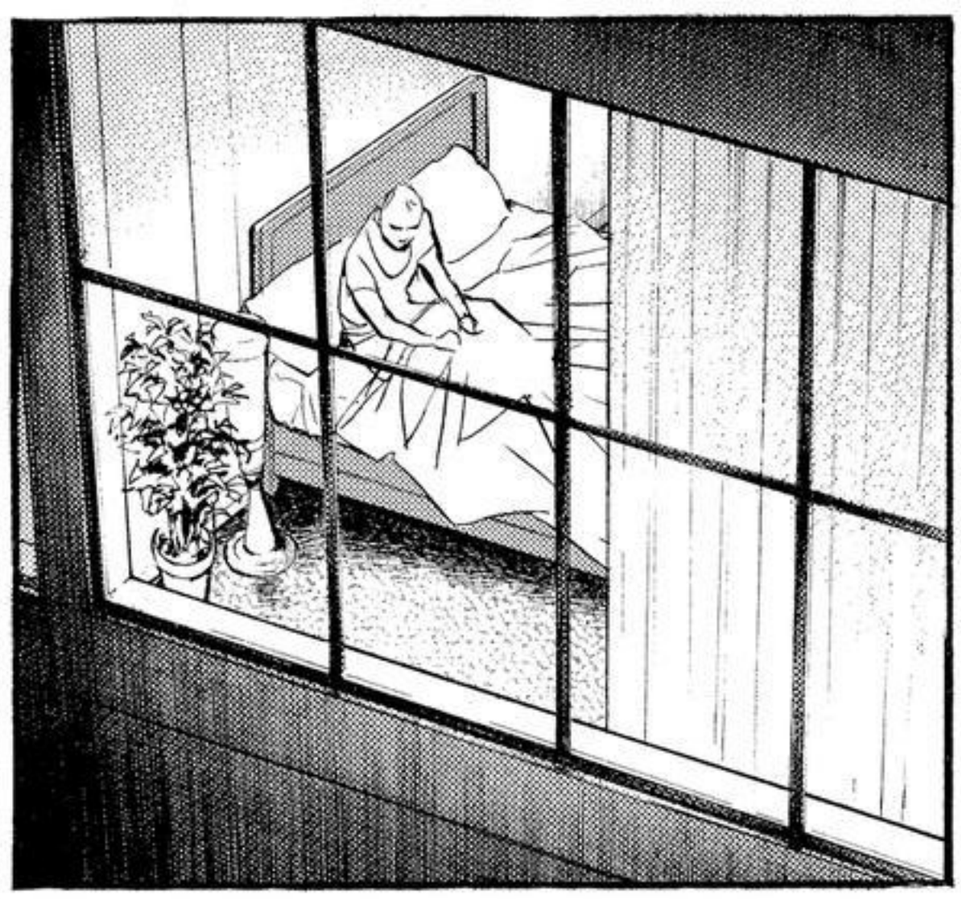
...


YOU JUST NEED SOME REST. THIS VACATION IN JAPAN WILL FIX YOU RIGHT UP...

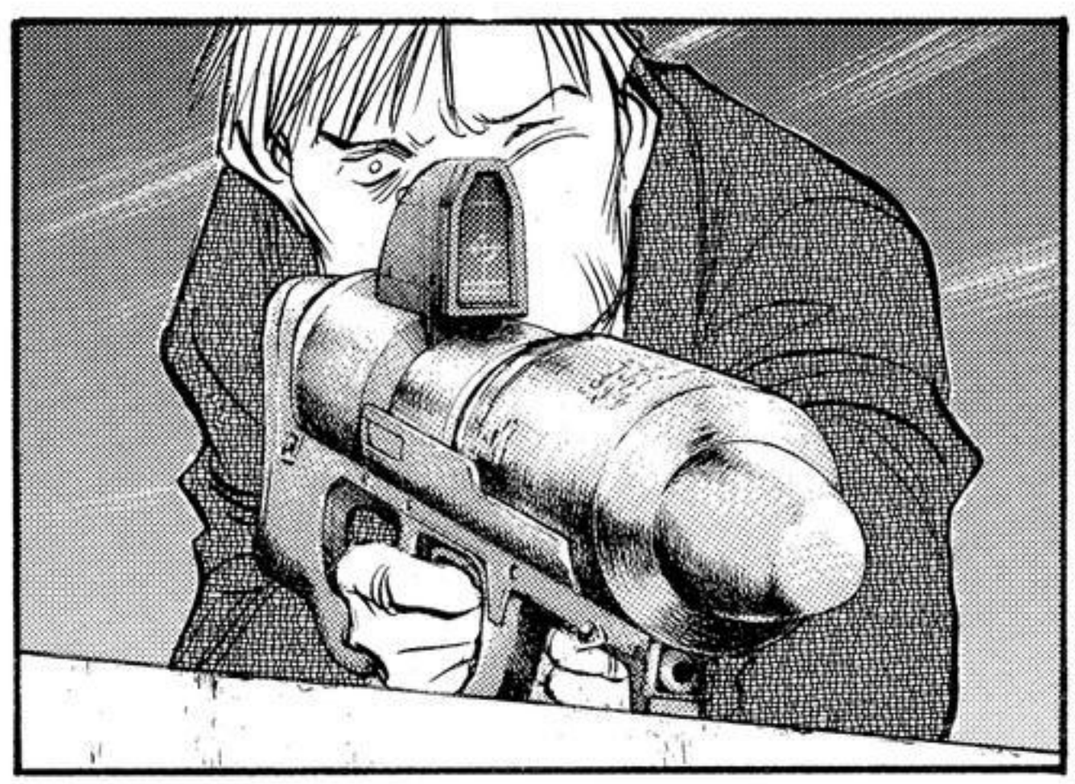

RIGHT...



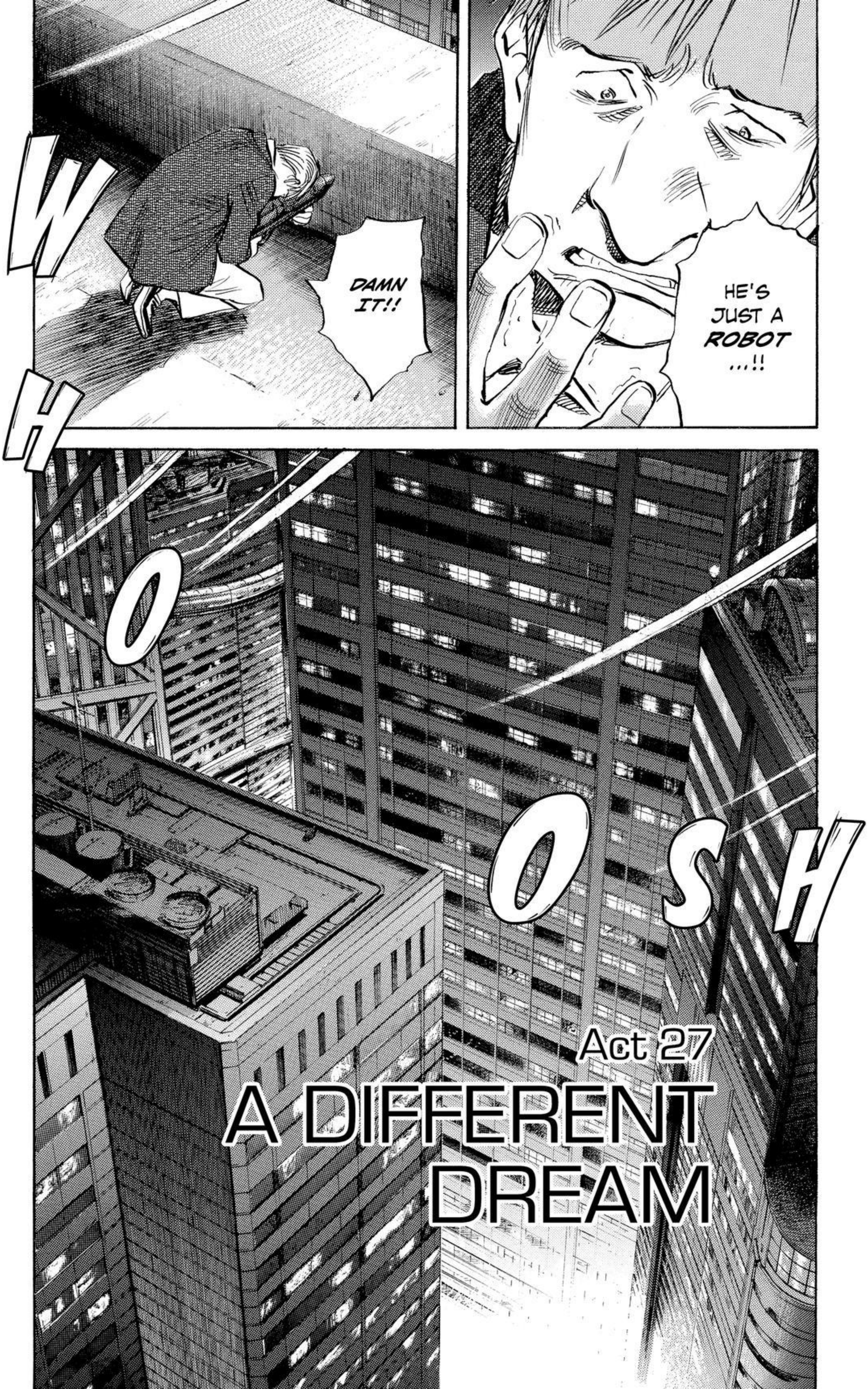




DAMN... CAN'T STOP SHAKING...



TRBL TRBL


DAMN IT!!
HE'S JUST A ROBOT ...!!
HO
OSH
Act 27
A DIFFERENT DREAM

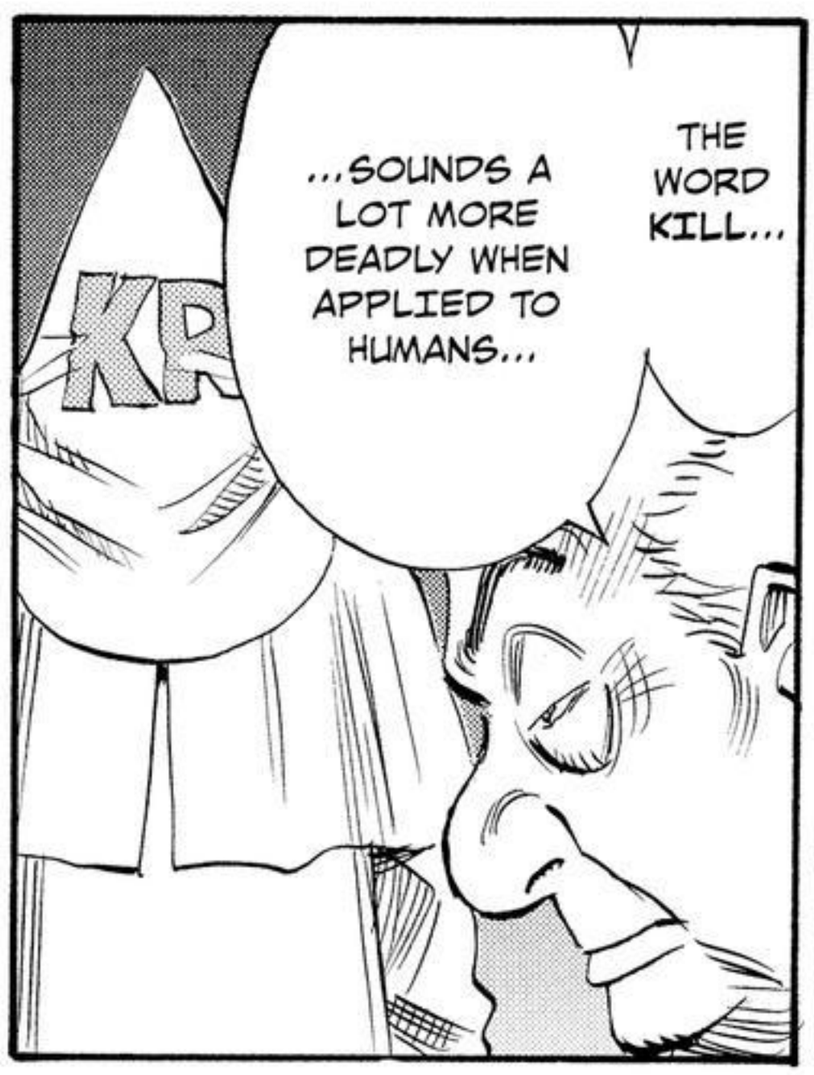
I'VE BEEN TAILING HIM FOR QUITE A WHILE, SIR. THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

WHAT AN ODD WAY TO PUT IT...
TRYING TO KILL A MACHINE, EH?

KR
ADOLF *IS* TRYING TO KILL GESICHT.

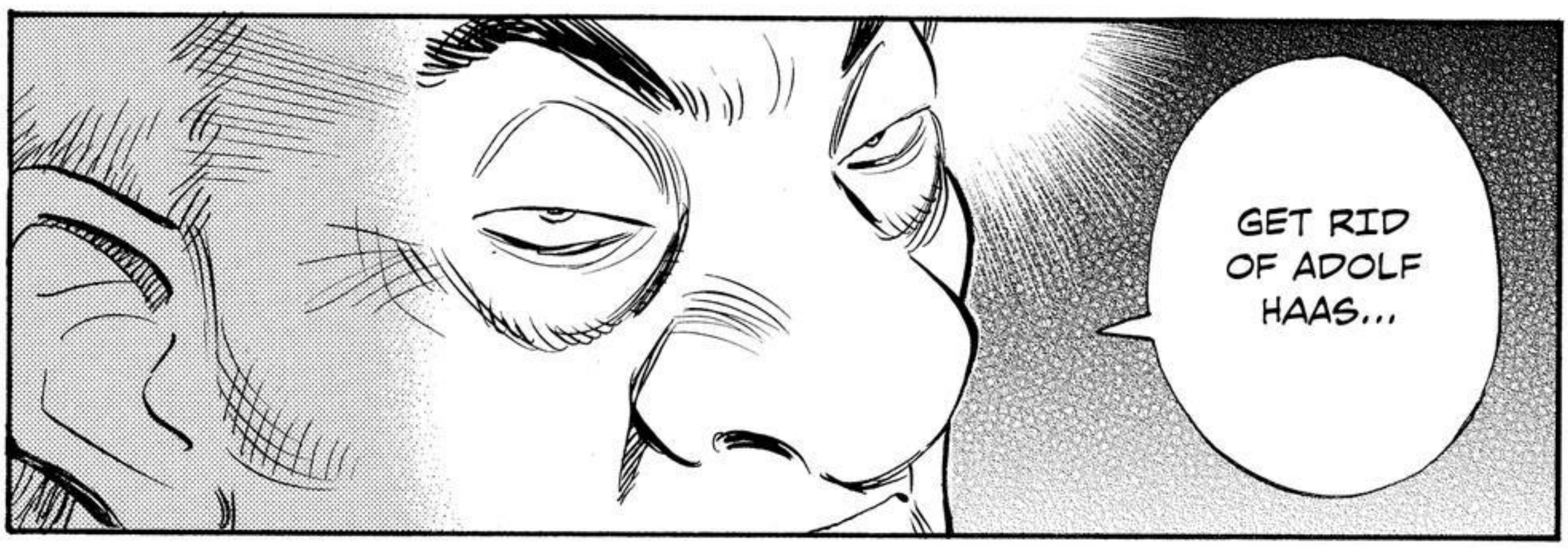
I DON'T WANT ANYONE OFFING HIM OUT OF SOME STUPID PERSONAL GRUDGE.
GESICHT IS THE KEY TO OUR PLAN'S SUCCESS.

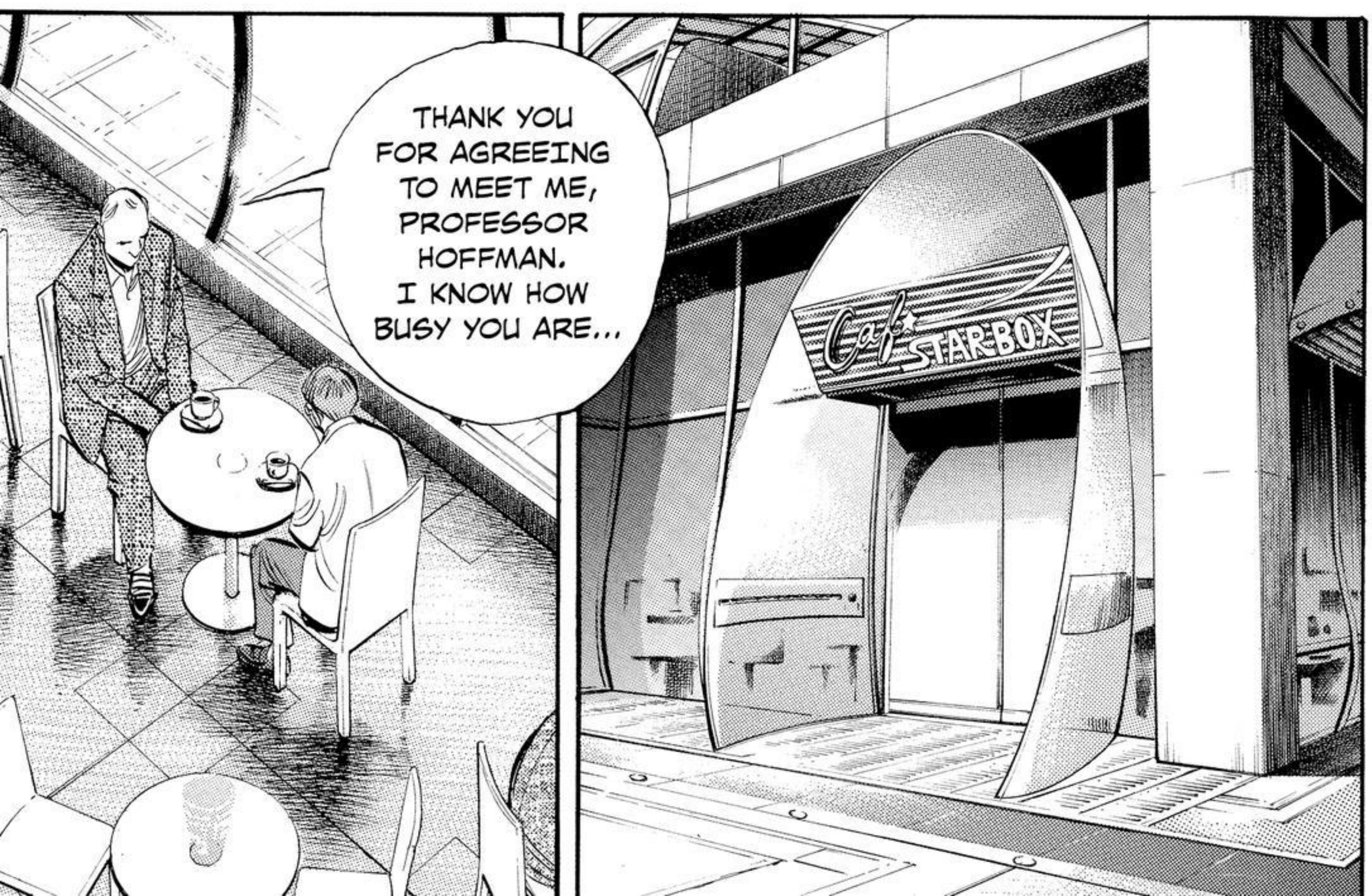
WELL, EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE GESICHT KILLED.
YESSIR ...


...SOUNDS A LOT MORE DEADLY WHEN APPLIED TO HUMANS...
THE WORD KILL...
KR

YESSIR. I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.
KR

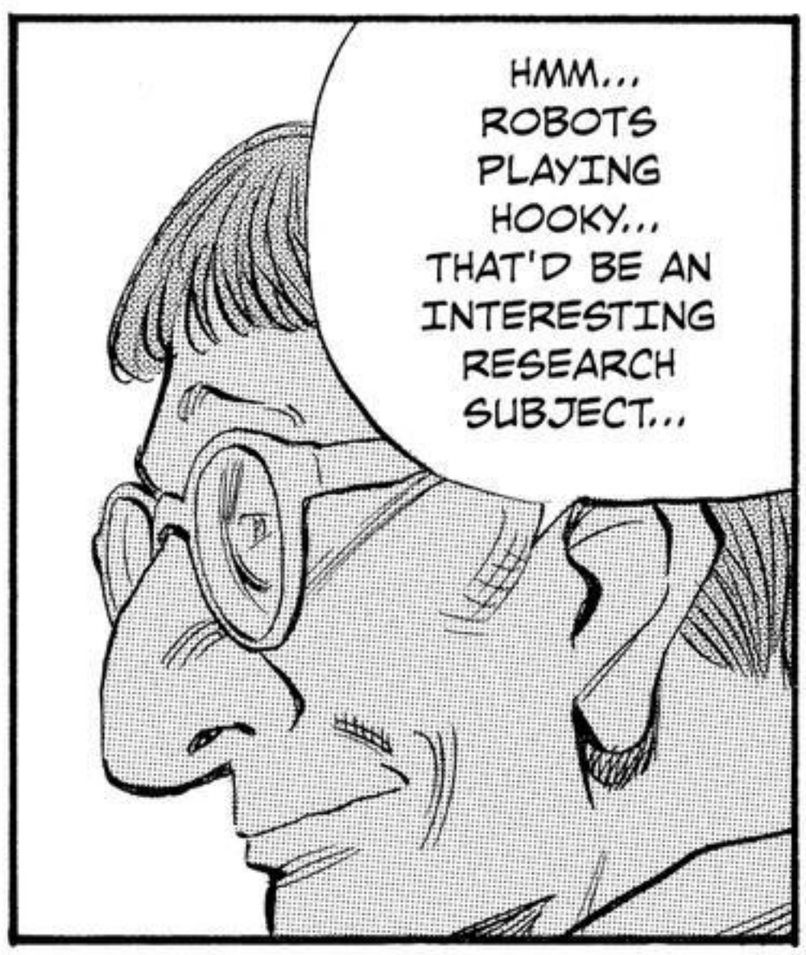
WHAT WILL ULTIMATELY KILL GESICHT...
...IS PUBLIC OPINION ...

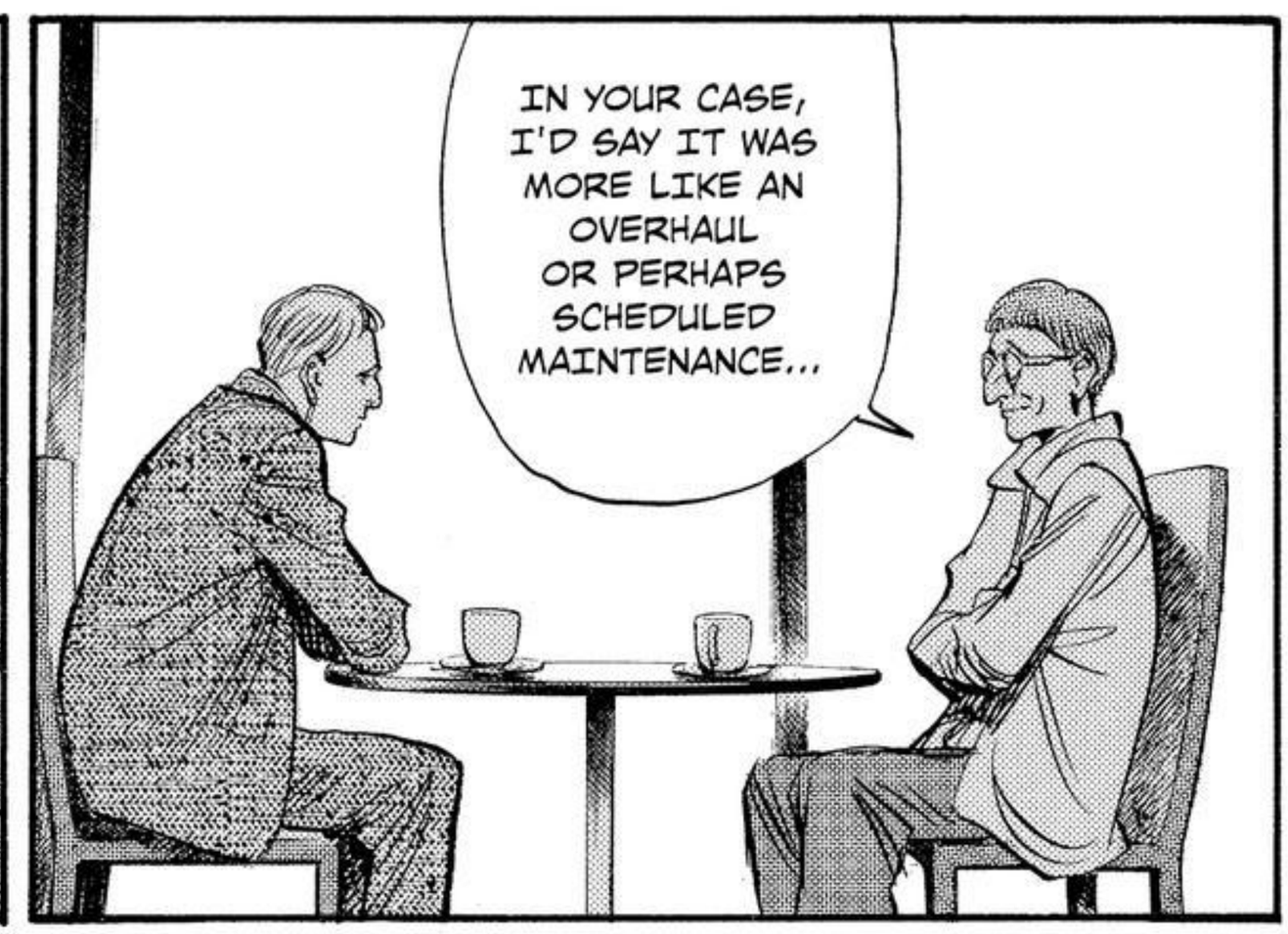

GET RID OF ADOLF HAAS...

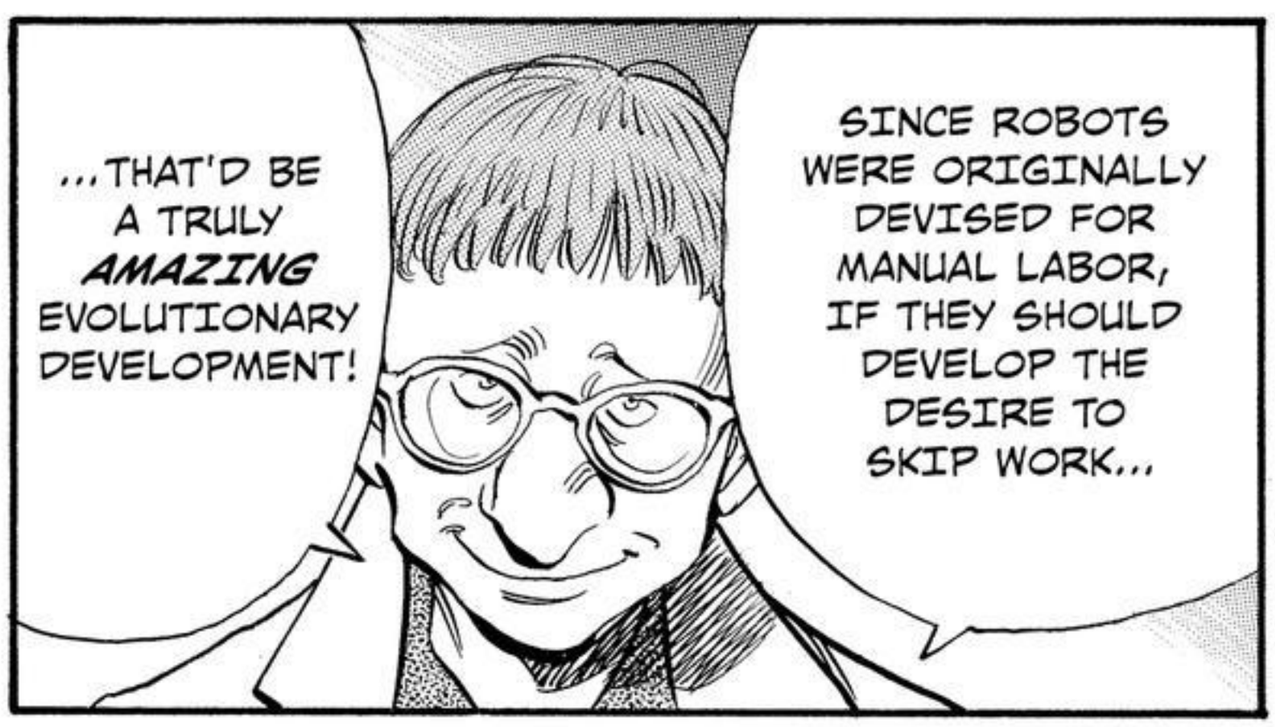

THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO MEET ME, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN. I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE...
Café STAR BOX

IS THAT CONSIDERED PLAYING HOOKY?
WHAT ABOUT MY VACATION?

NO PROBLEM, GESICHT. WE HUMANS HAVE A CLEVER WAY OF AVOIDING WORK. IT'S CALLED PLAYING HOOKY.

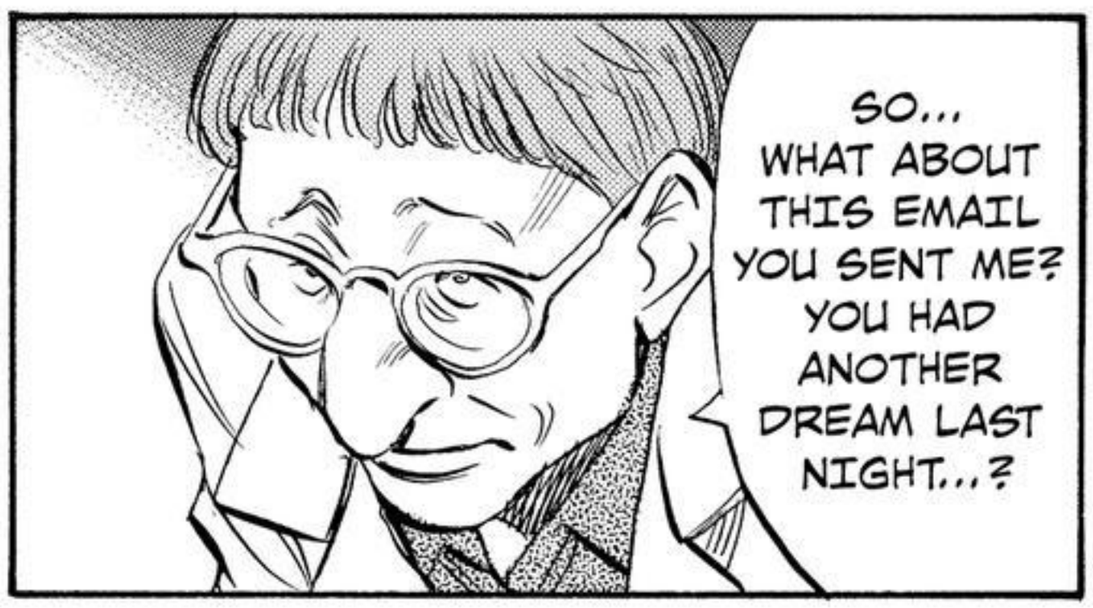

HMM... ROBOTS PLAYING HOOKY... THAT'D BE AN INTERESTING RESEARCH SUBJECT...


IN YOUR CASE, I'D SAY IT WAS MORE LIKE AN OVERHAUL OR PERHAPS SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE...


...THAT'D BE A TRULY *AMAZING* EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT!
SINCE ROBOTS WERE ORIGINALLY DEVISED FOR MANUAL LABOR, IF THEY SHOULD DEVELOP THE DESIRE TO SKIP WORK...

SKIPPING WORK AN EVOLUTIONARY STEP?

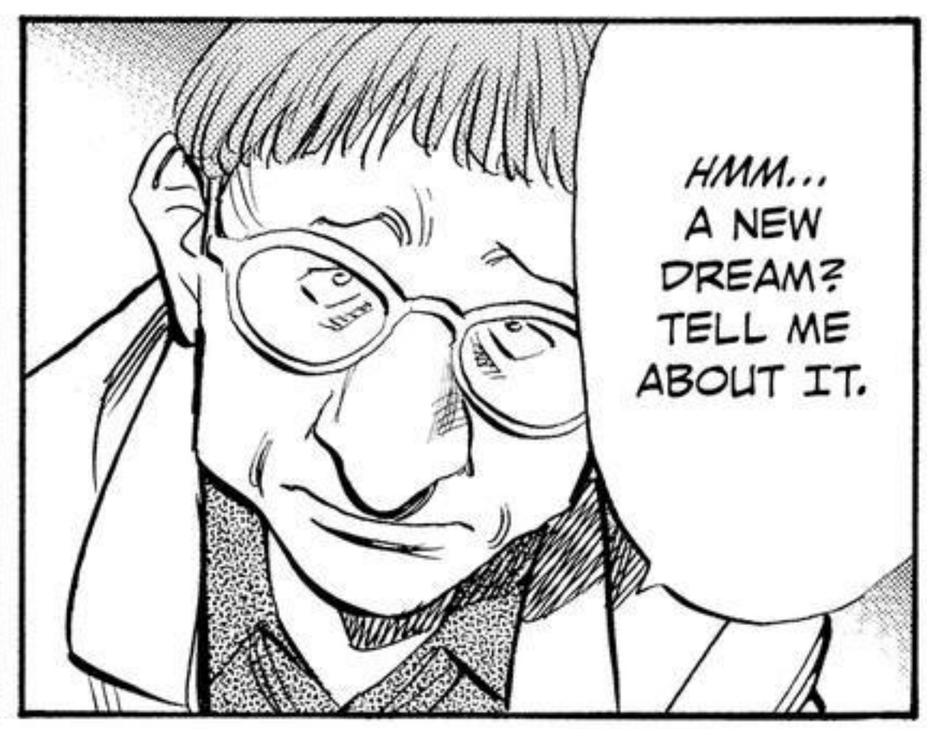
IT IS SAID THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD *ROBOT* IS THE CZECH WORD FOR LABOR, *ROBOTA*...


SO... WHAT ABOUT THIS EMAIL YOU SENT ME? YOU HAD ANOTHER DREAM LAST NIGHT...?

HA HA HA... YES, STRANGE AS IT SEEMS...

BUT THIS ONE WAS DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL ONE...
YES.

SO I'VE JUST KEPT IT IN MY TRASH FILE...
I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GO OVER IT AGAIN...

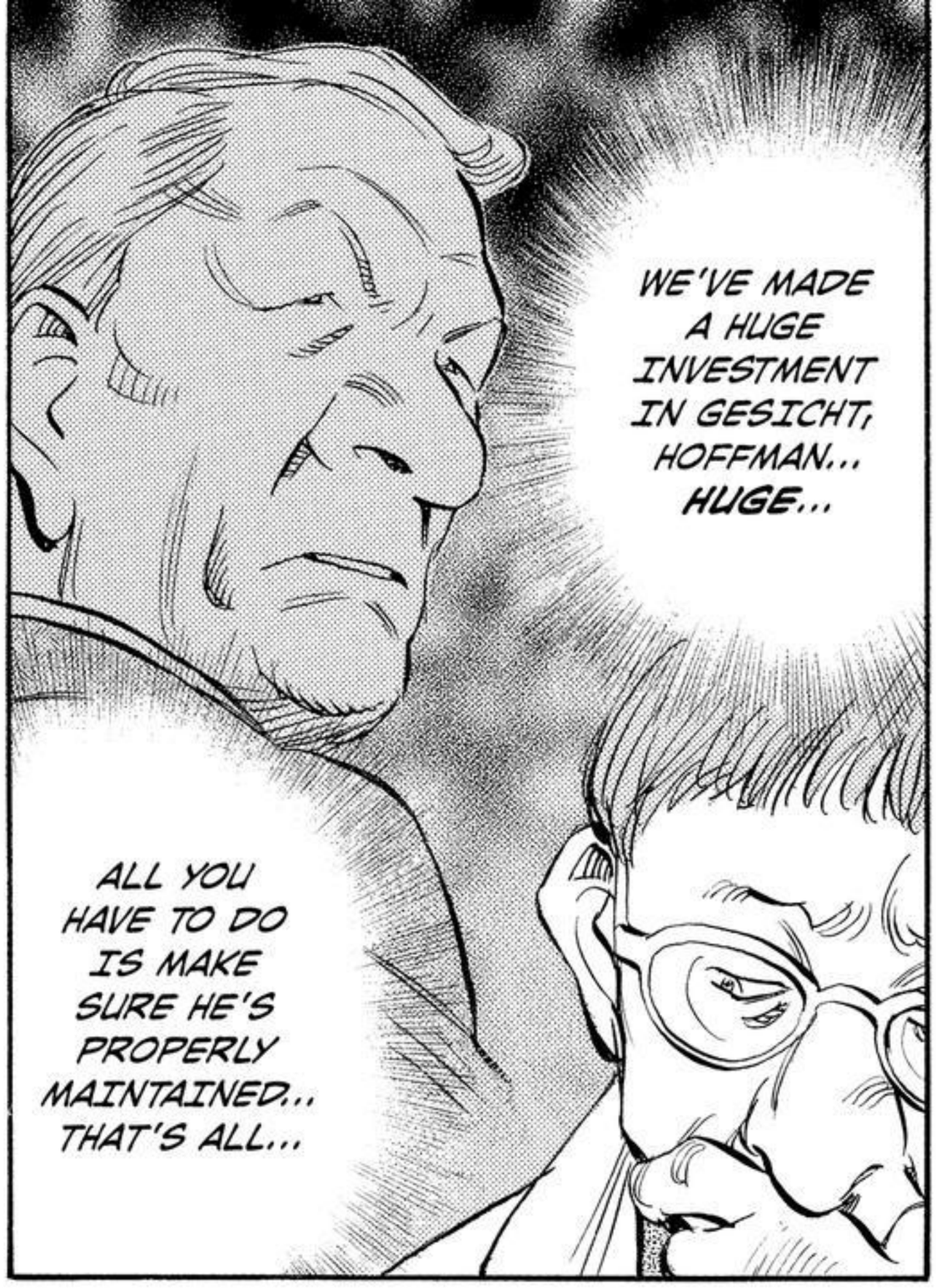

HMM... A NEW DREAM? TELL ME ABOUT IT.

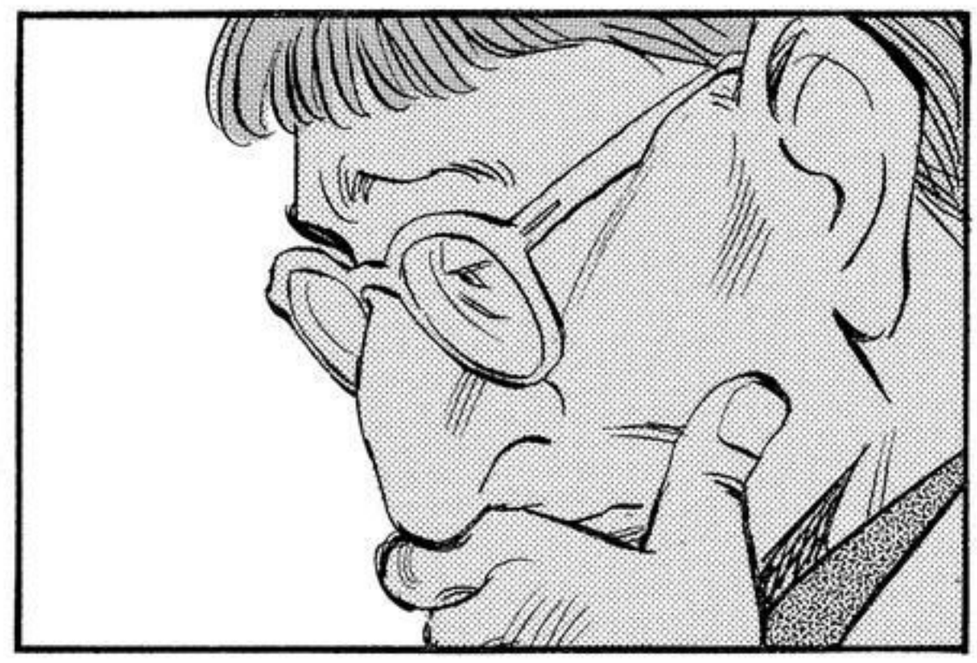
THEN AGAIN WHAT?

THEN AGAIN...
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT IT'S A VIRUS.

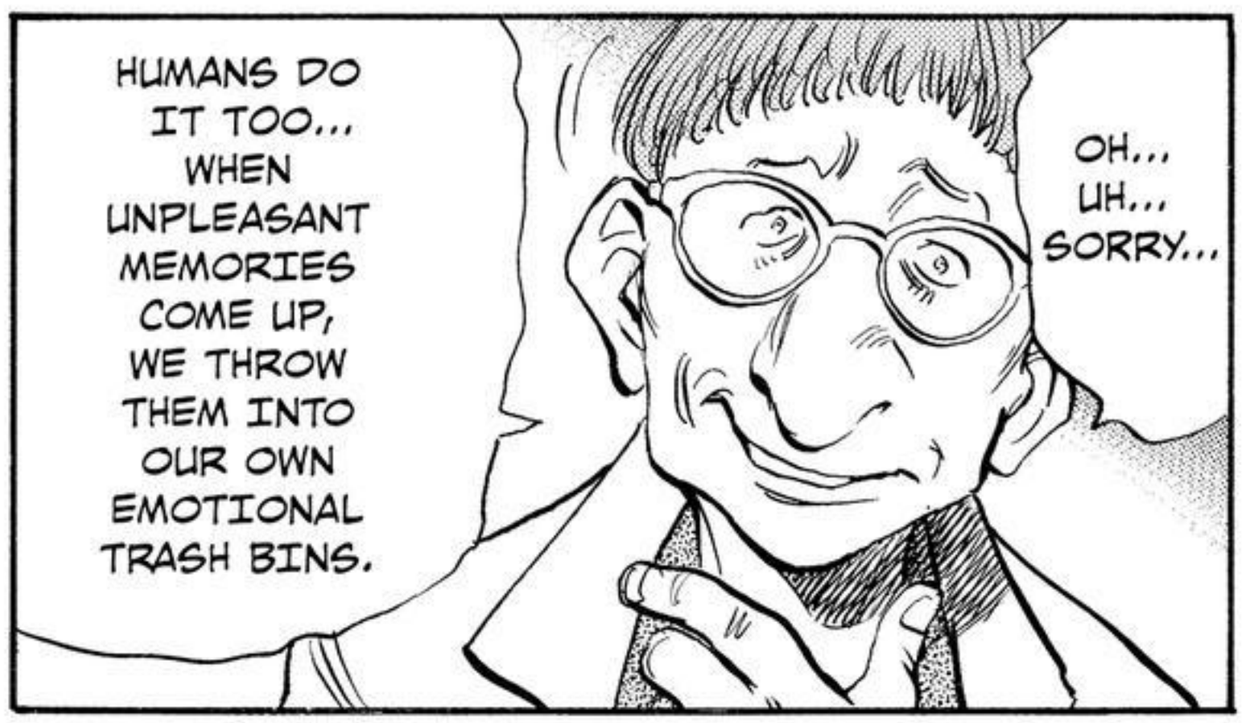
PROBABLY BETTER YOU DON'T REOPEN IT.

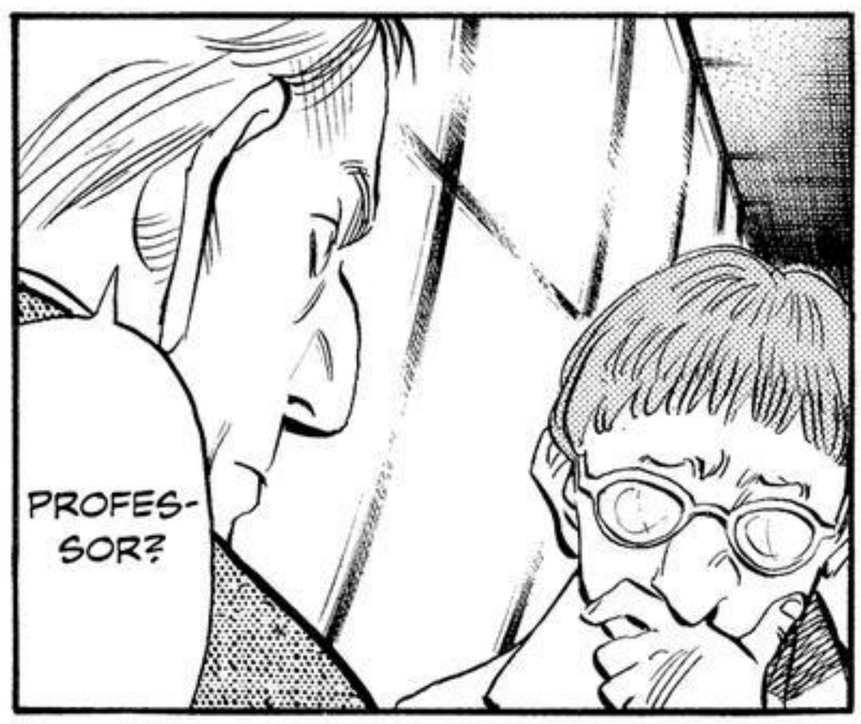
IS THAT SO...


WE'VE MADE A HUGE INVESTMENT IN GESICHT, HOFFMAN... HUGE...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE HE'S PROPERLY MAINTAINED... THAT'S ALL...



WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?

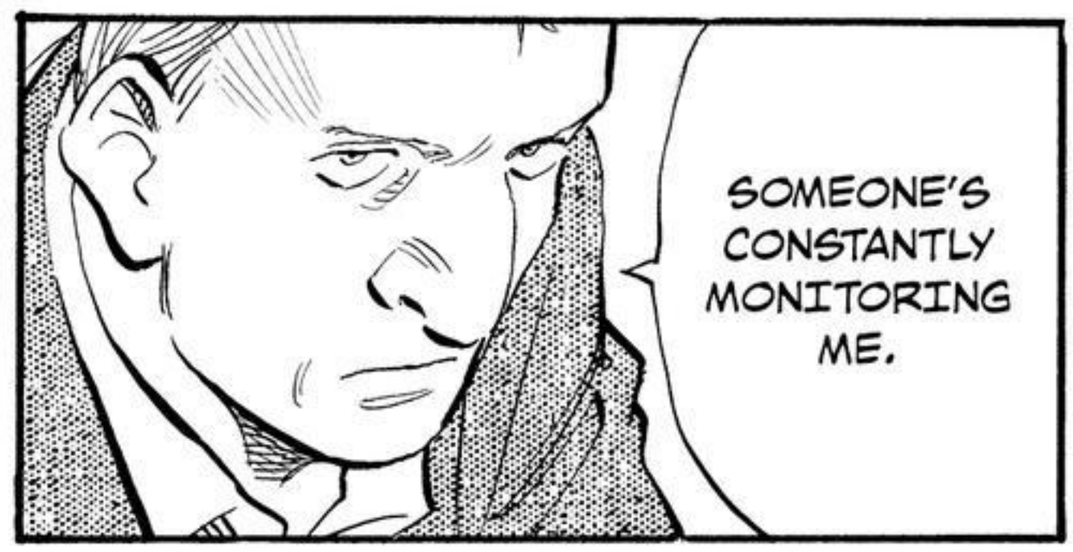

HUMANS DO IT TOO... WHEN UNPLEASANT MEMORIES COME UP, WE THROW THEM INTO OUR OWN EMOTIONAL TRASH BINS.
OH... UH... SORRY...

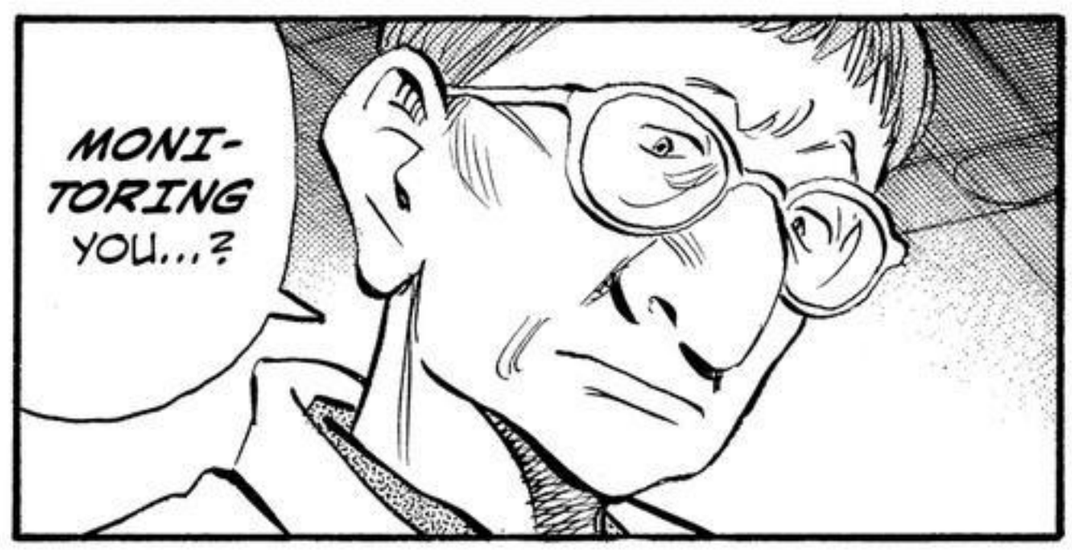

PROFES-SOR?

ONE OTHER THING, PROFESSOR ...
SURE... WHAT IS IT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
WELL, GOT TO GET GOING...

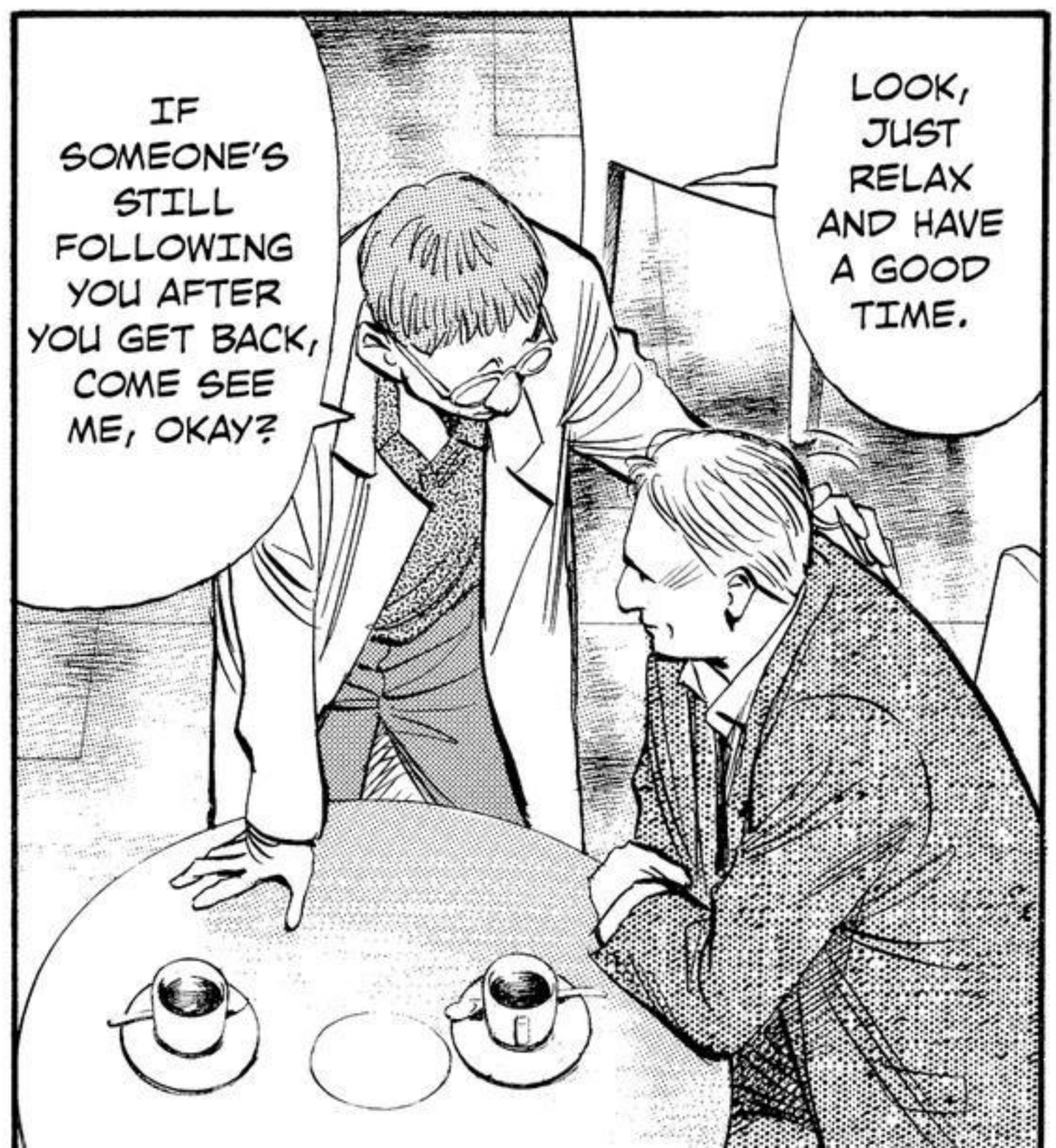
YES, WHEN I'M IN MY CAR, AND EVEN AT HOME...
WHAT? SOME KIND OF STALKER...?


SOMEONE'S CONSTANTLY MONITORING ME.


MONI-TORING YOU...?

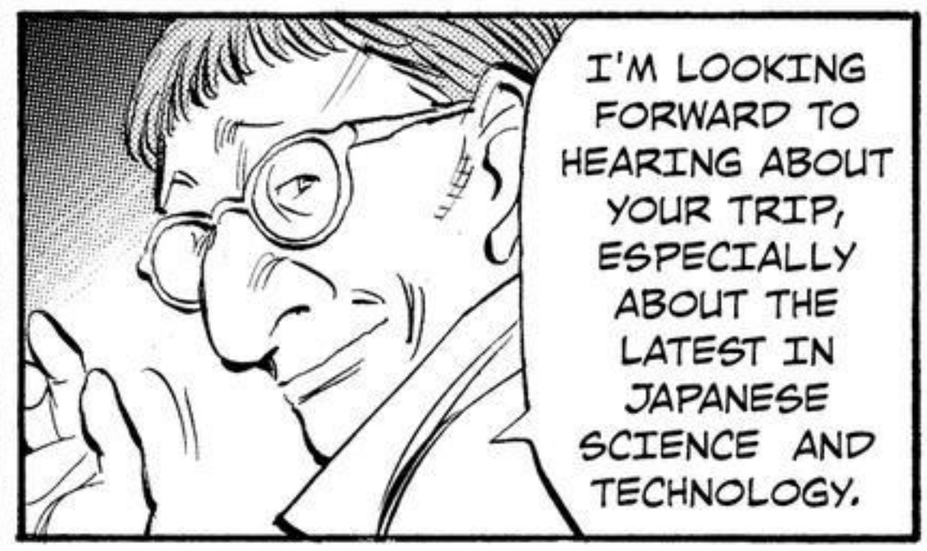
I HOPE IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. AT LEAST NO STALKER'S GOING TO FOLLOW YOU ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN.

AS A POLICE OFFICER, YOU PROBABLY GET YOUR SHARE OF ANGRY PEOPLE, I SUPPOSE.

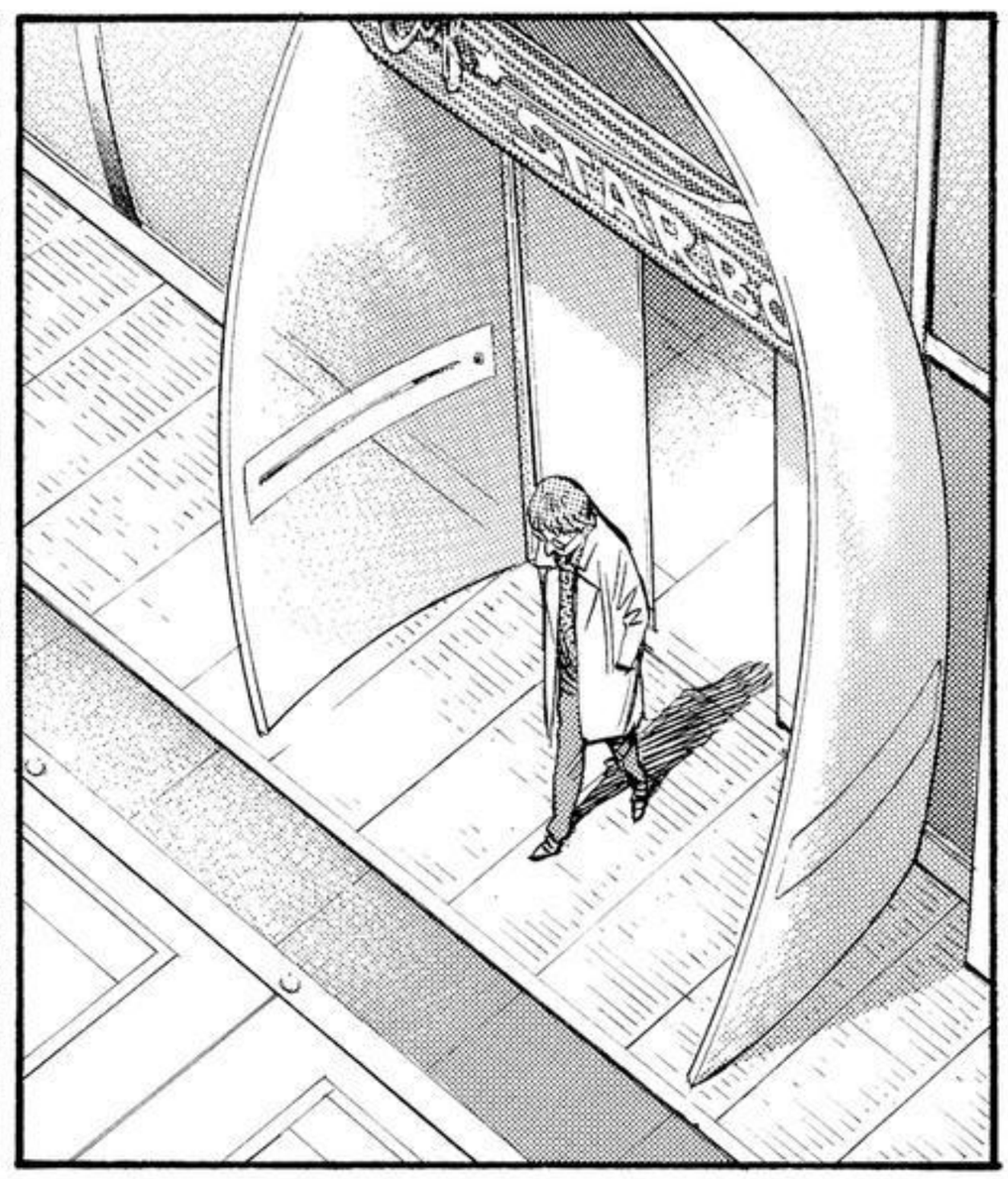

IF SOMEONE'S STILL FOLLOWING YOU AFTER YOU GET BACK, COME SEE ME, OKAY?
LOOK, JUST RELAX AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.

YOU'RE LEAVING TONIGHT, RIGHT?

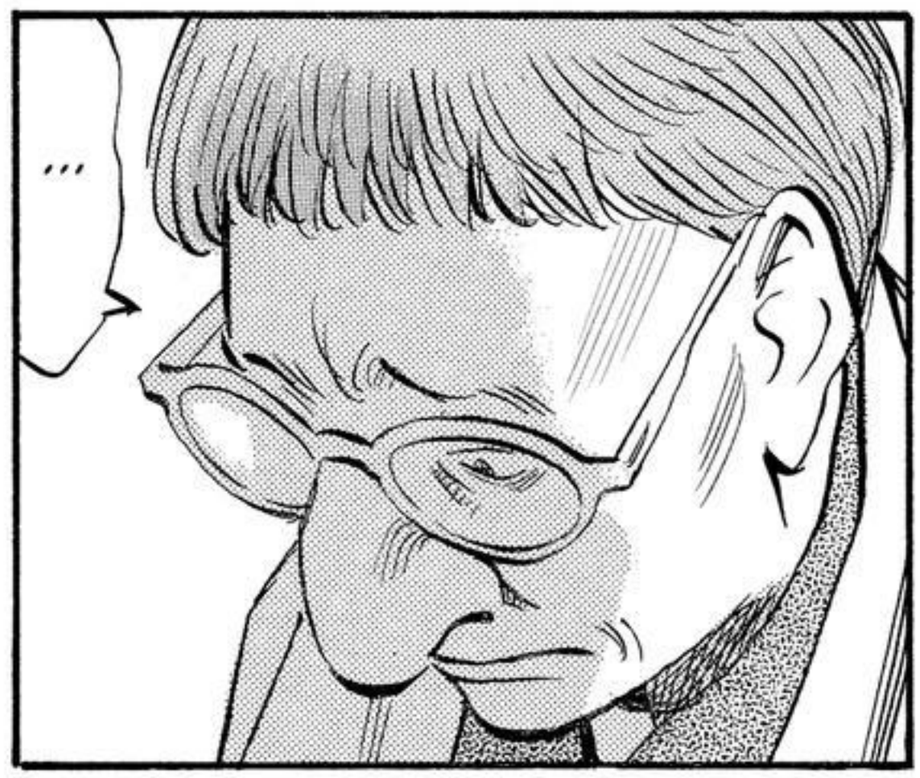
YES.


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT YOUR TRIP, ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE LATEST IN JAPANESE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

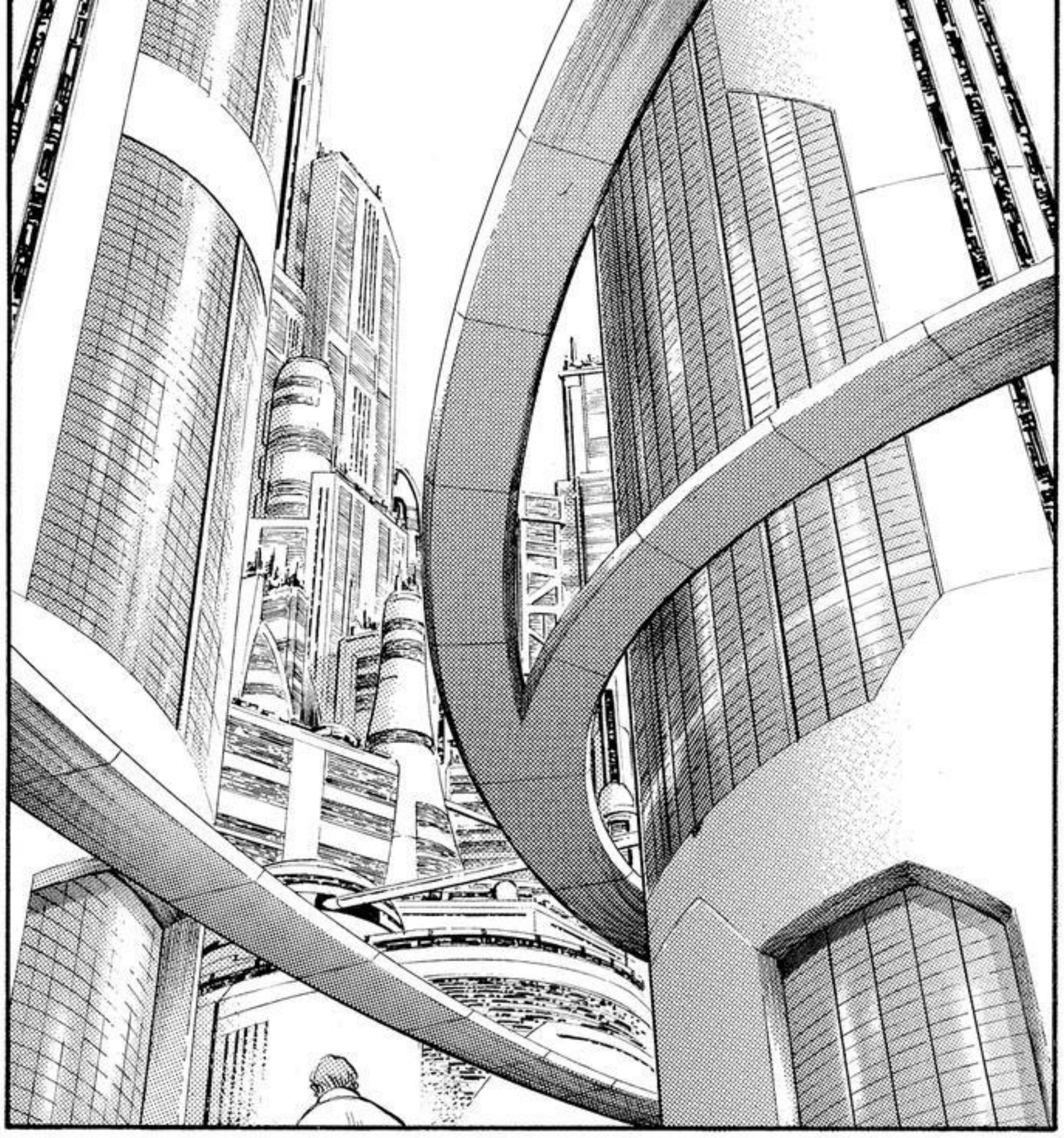
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO GESICHT?!!

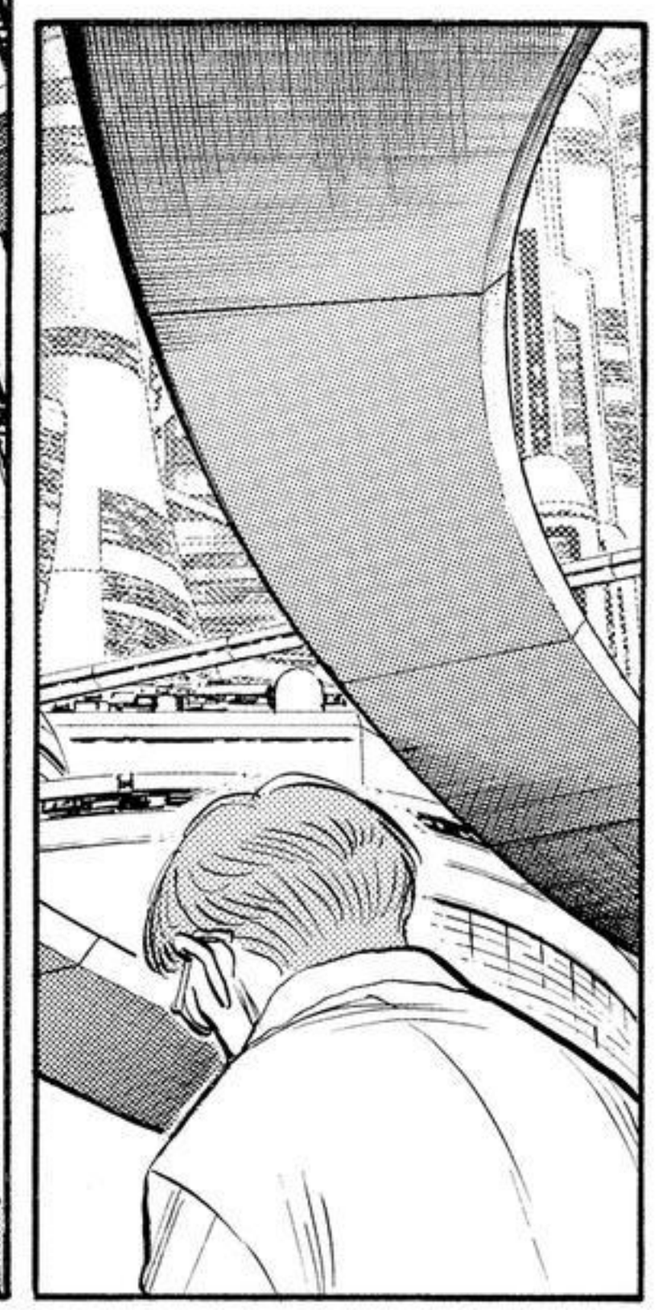


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIS AI?


...

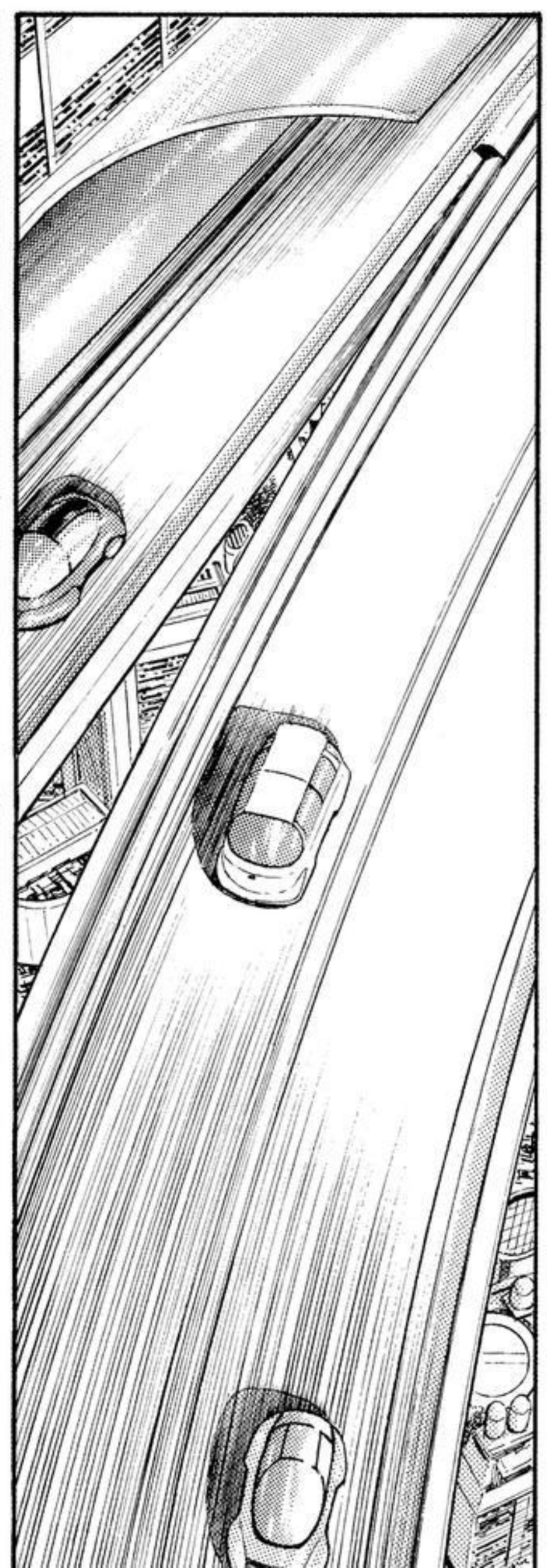
HOFFMAN, YOU JUST MAKE SURE HE'S PROPERLY MAINTAINED. THAT'S ALL.



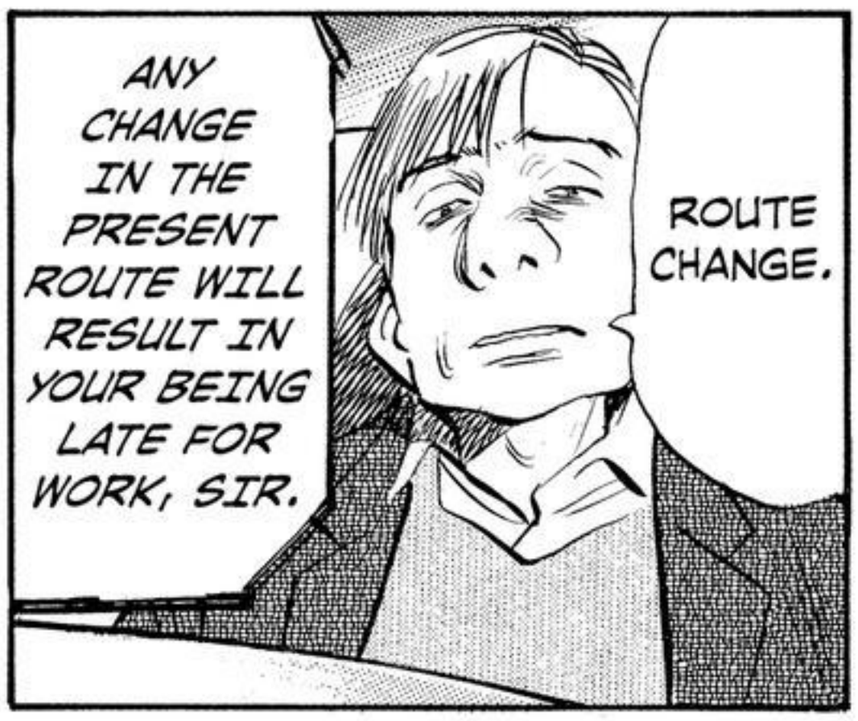


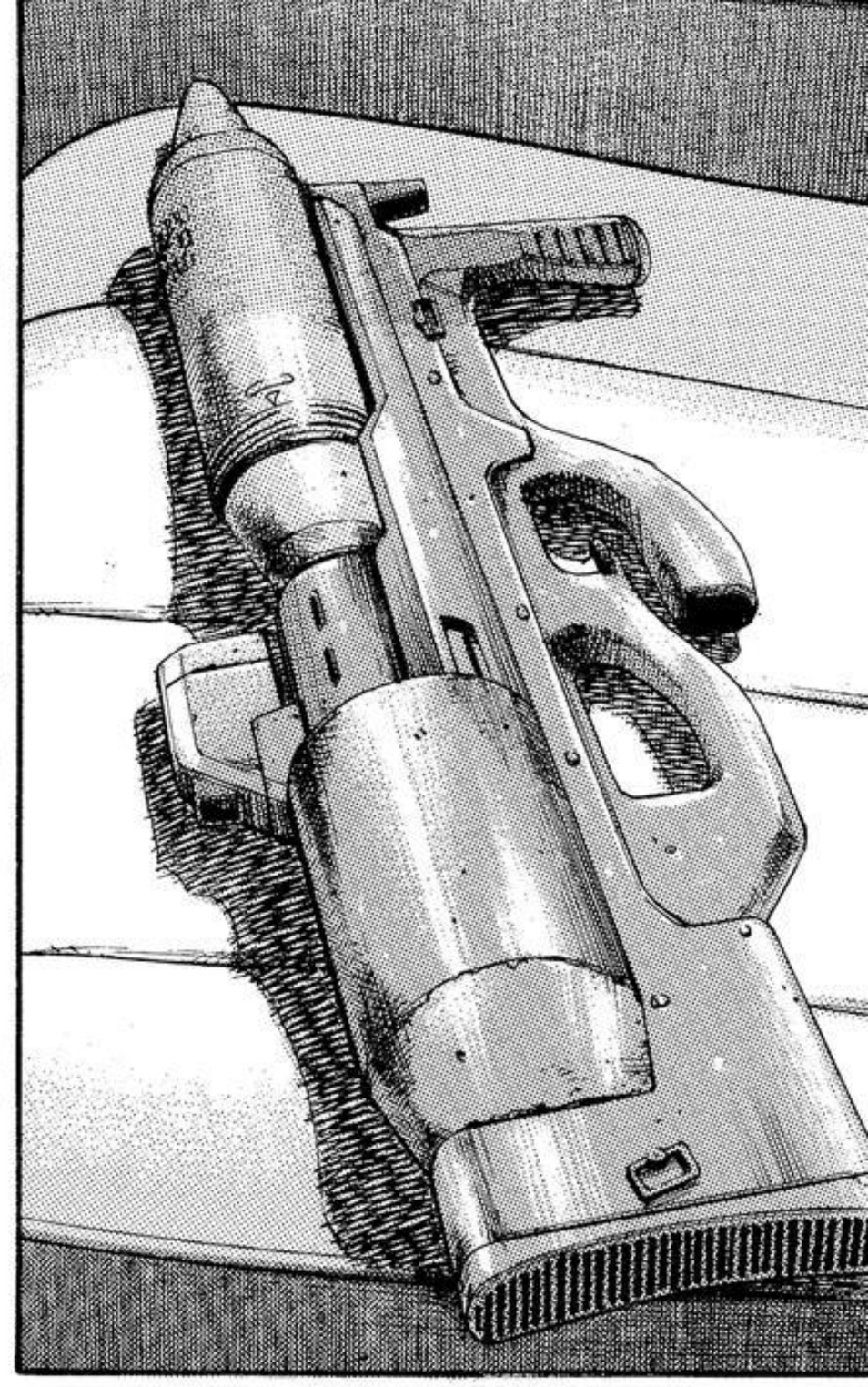
I'VE GOT TO DO IT TODAY...

TODAY, FOR SURE...

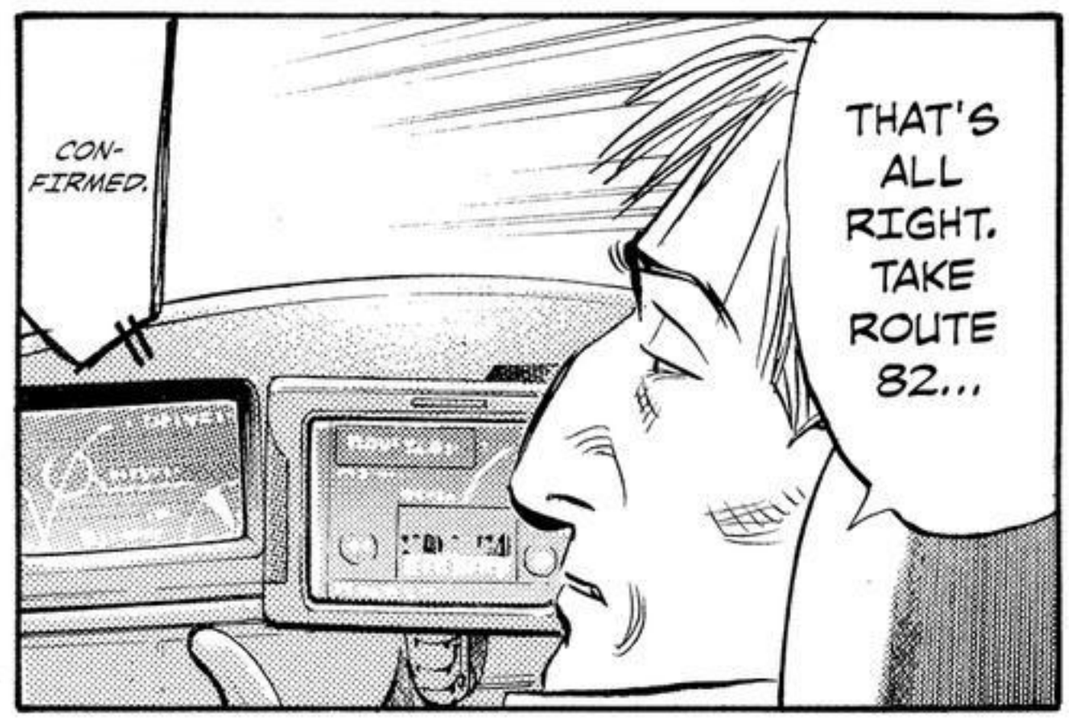


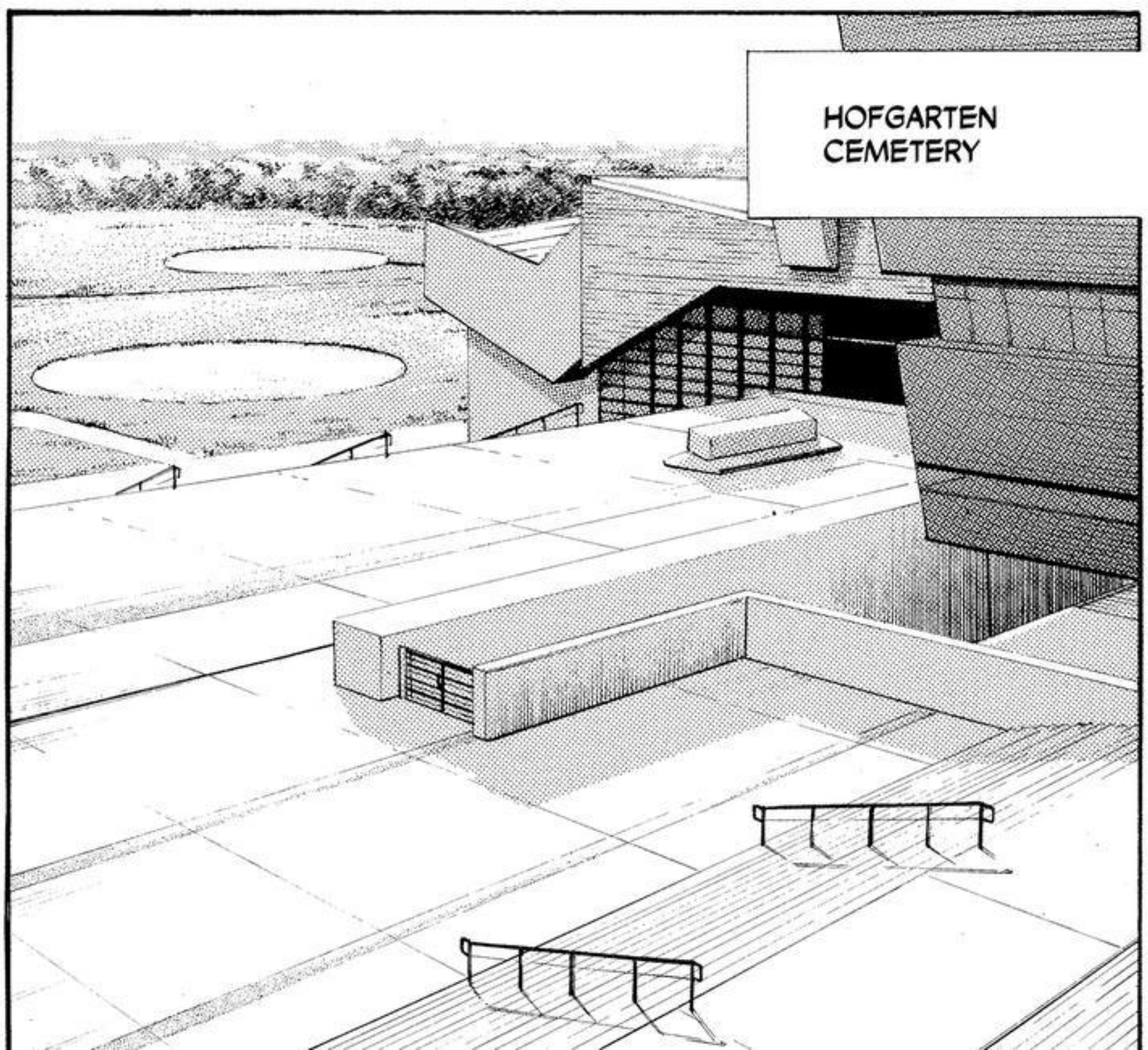
OTHERWISE HE'LL LEAVE FOR HIS TRIP...

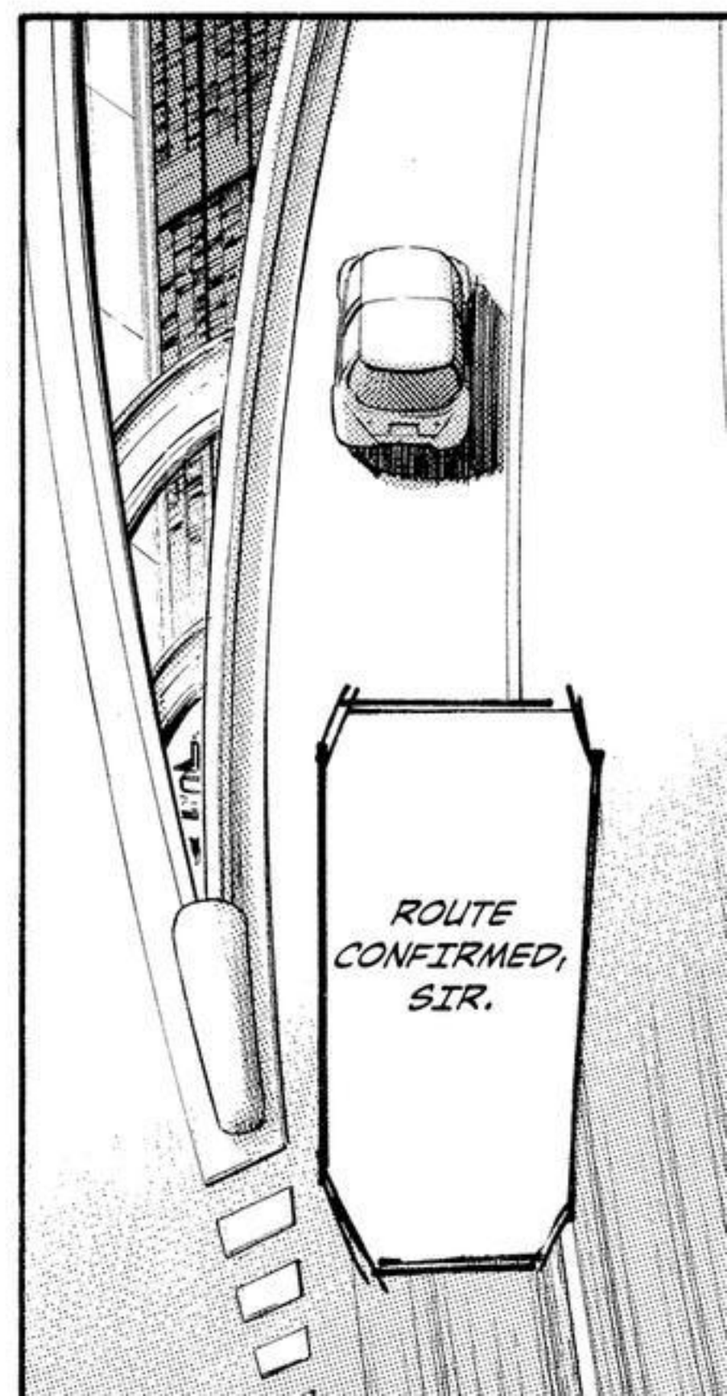

ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT ROUTE WILL RESULT IN YOUR BEING LATE FOR WORK, SIR.
ROUTE CHANGE.



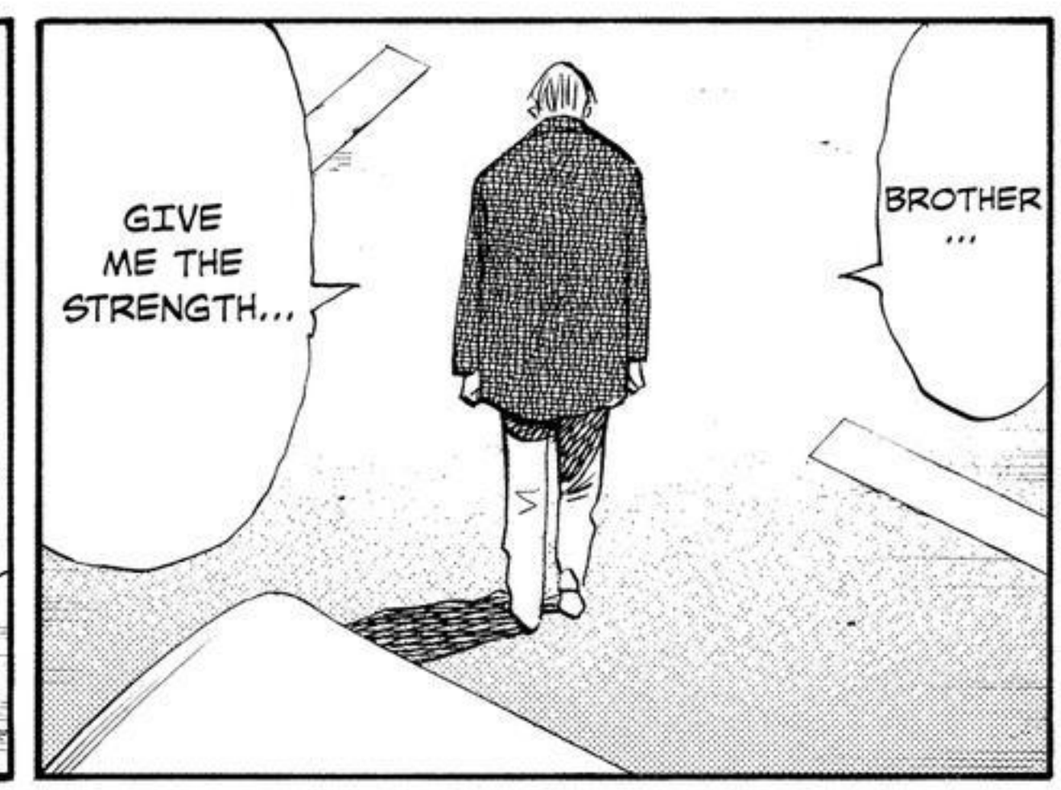
I'M GOING TO VISIT MY BROTHER'S GRAVE.


CON-FIRMED.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. TAKE ROUTE 82...

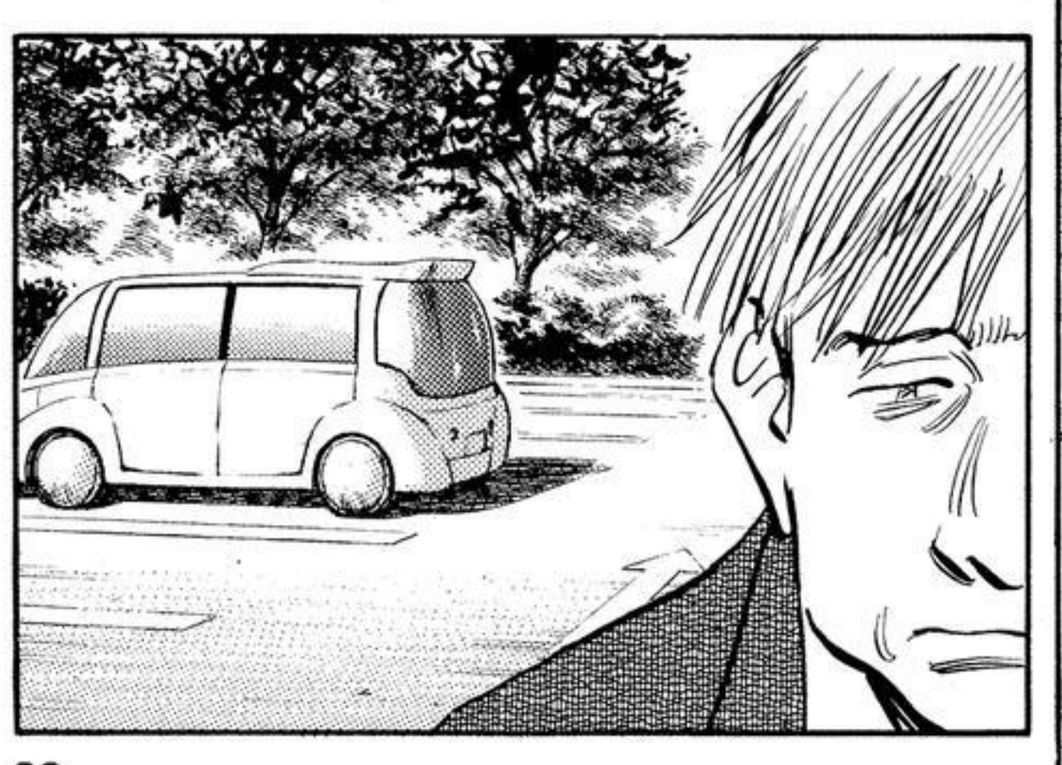

HOFGARTEN CEMETERY

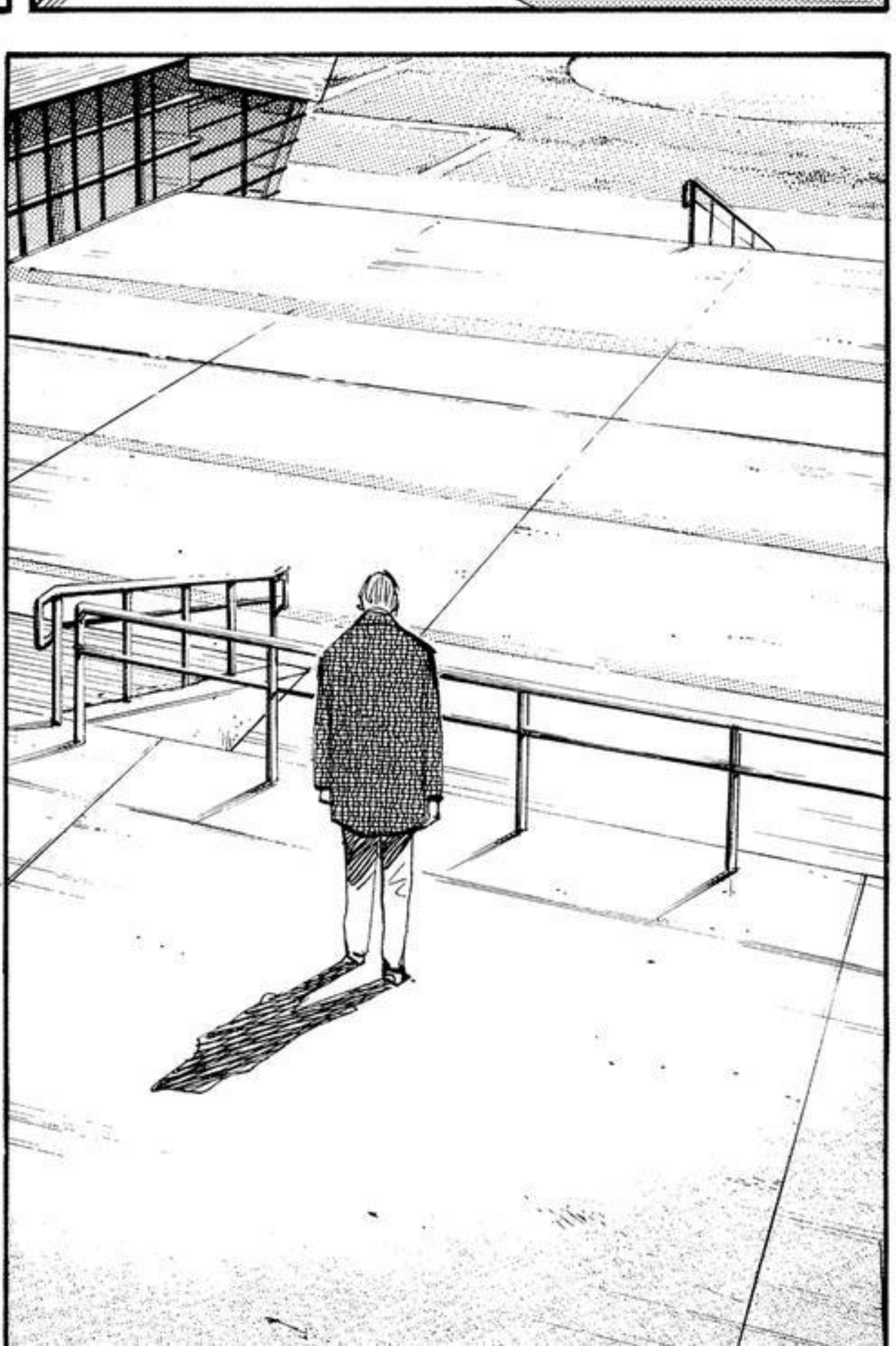

ROUTE CONFIRMED, SIR.

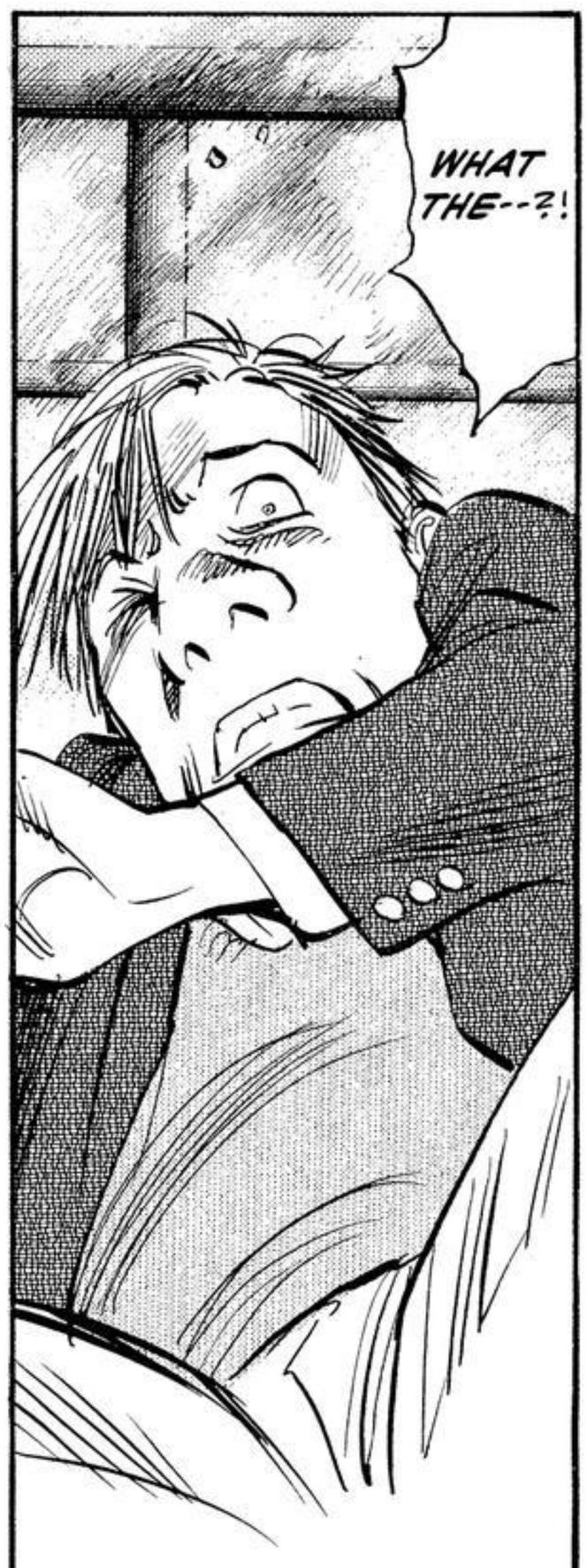
HELP ME GET REVENGE...
...ON THE ROBOT THAT KILLED YOU...

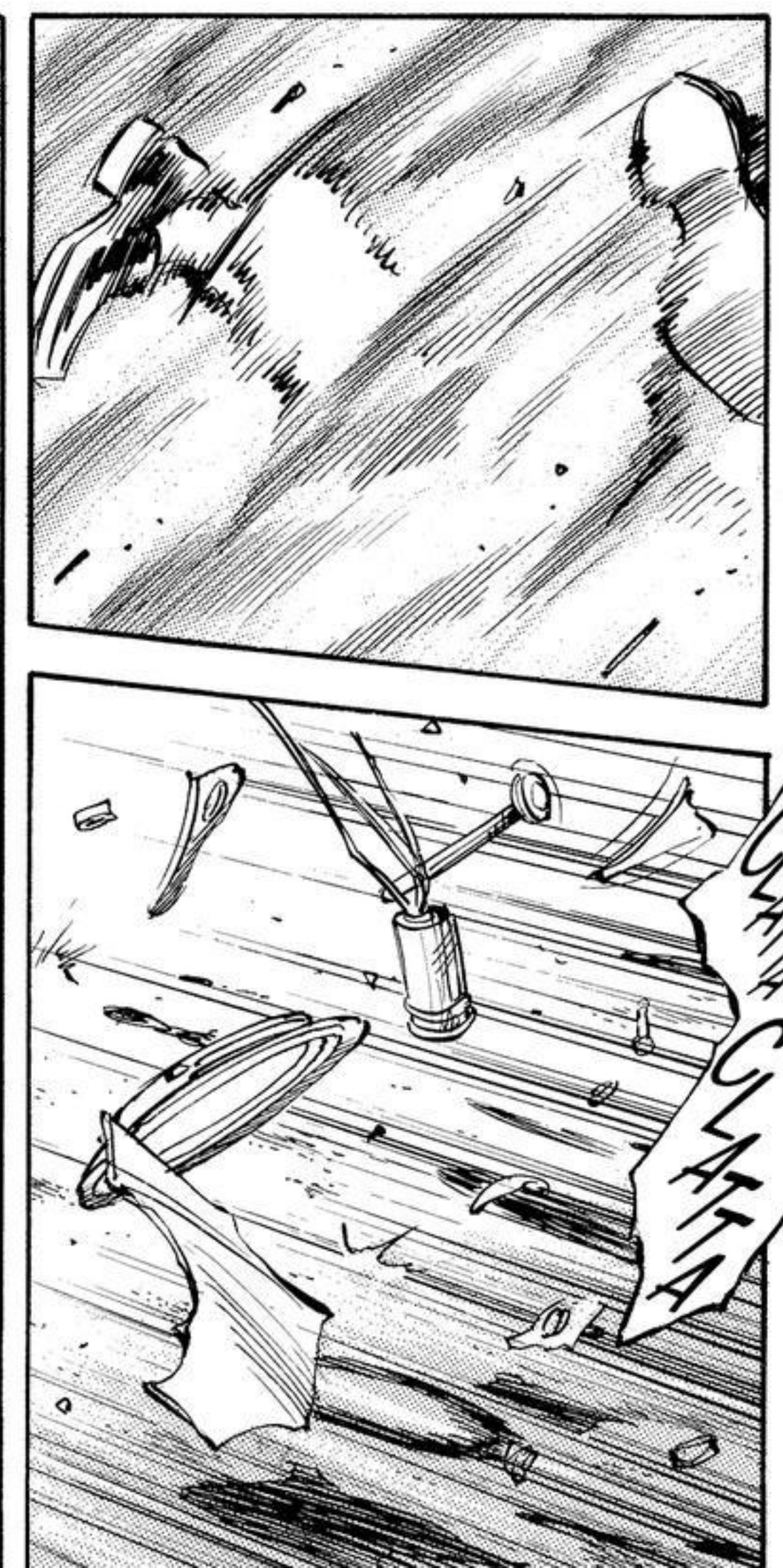

GIVE ME THE STRENGTH...
BROTHER ...

GIVE ME THE COURAGE I LACK...

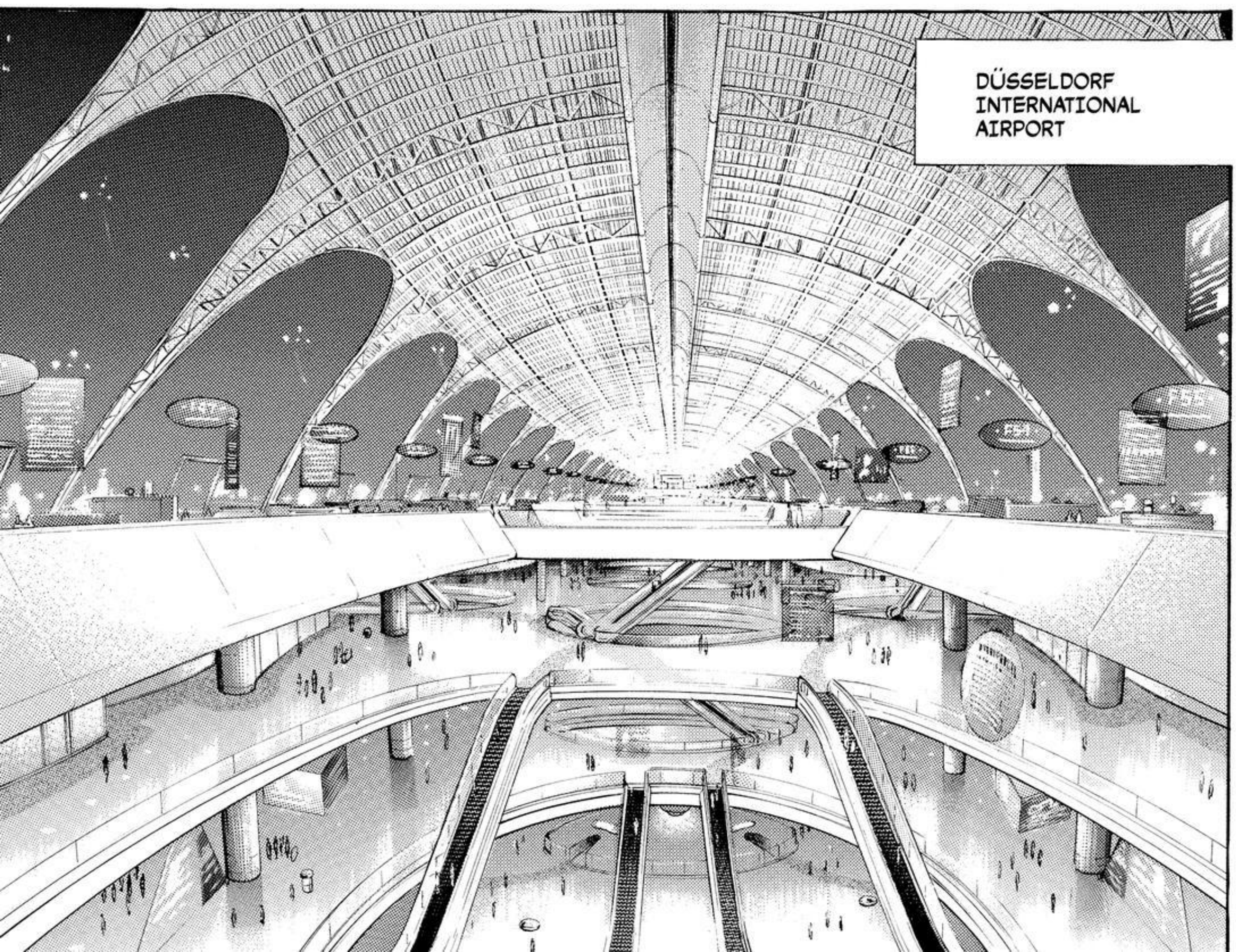


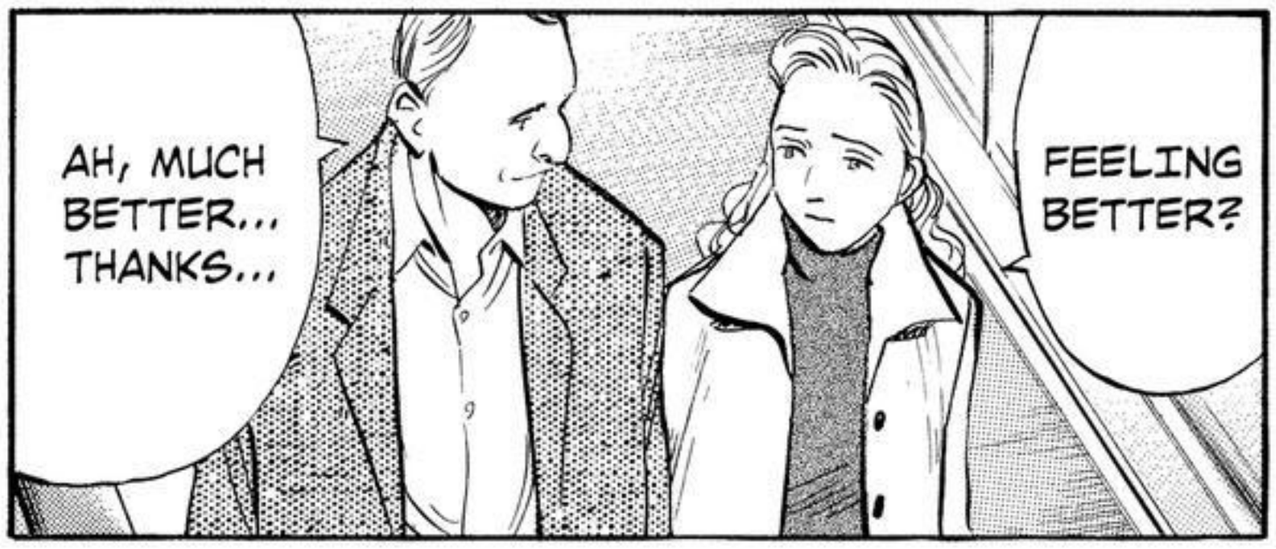



WHAT THE--?!


CLATTA CLATTA

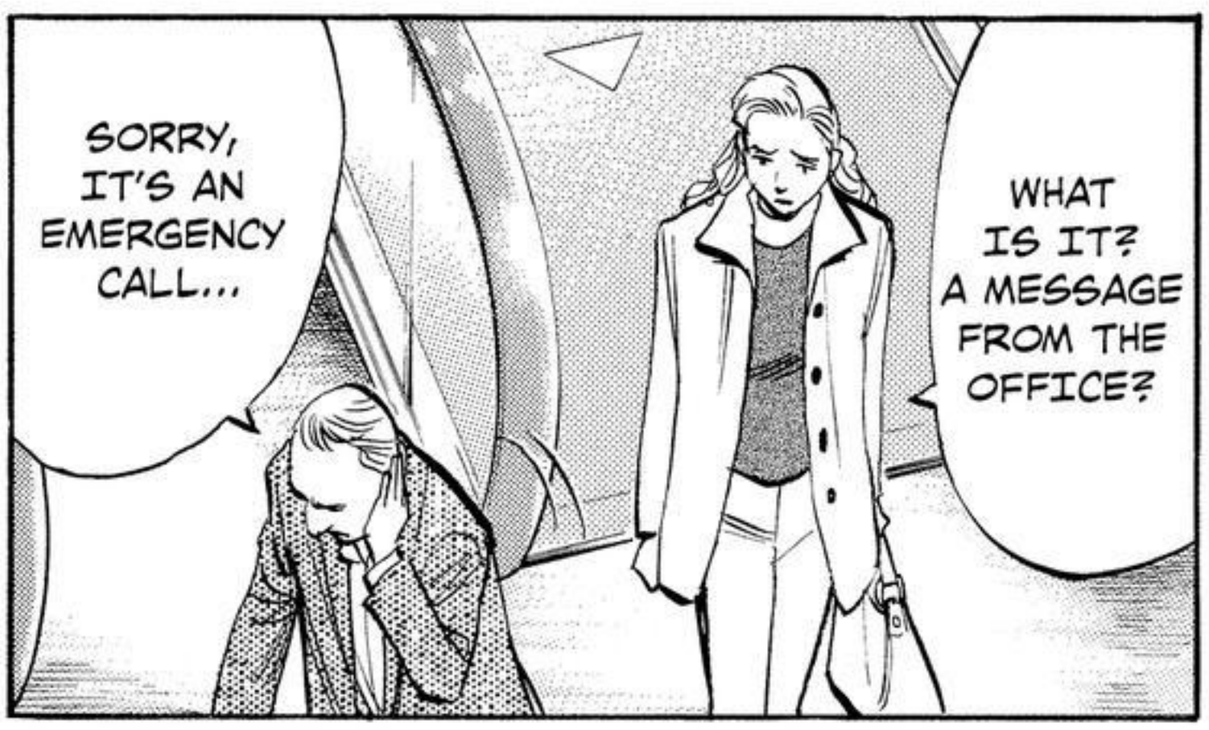
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!

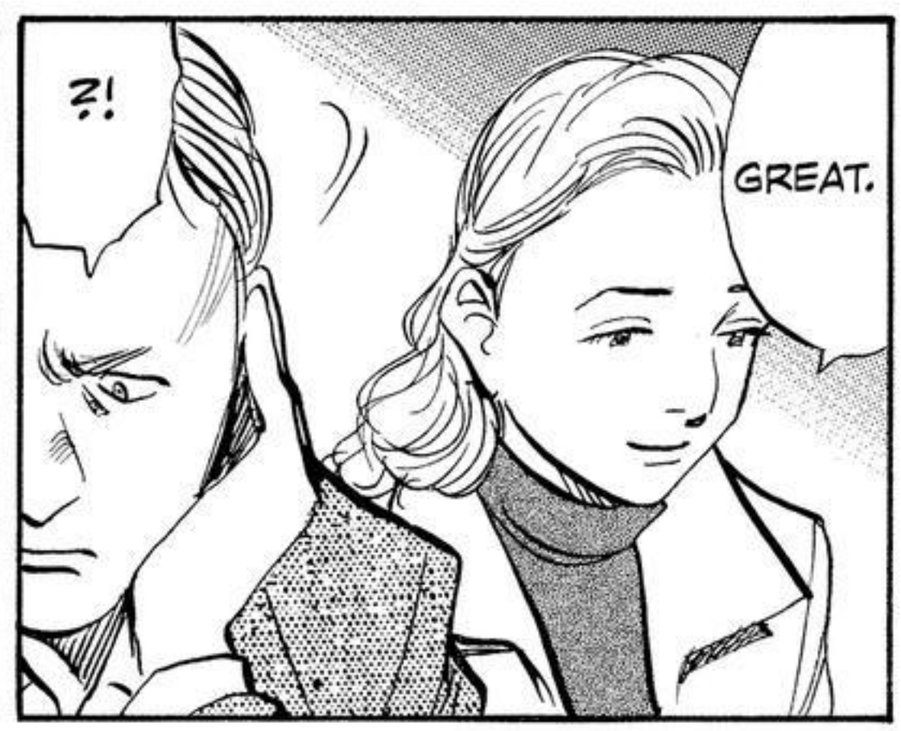

DÜSSELDORF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

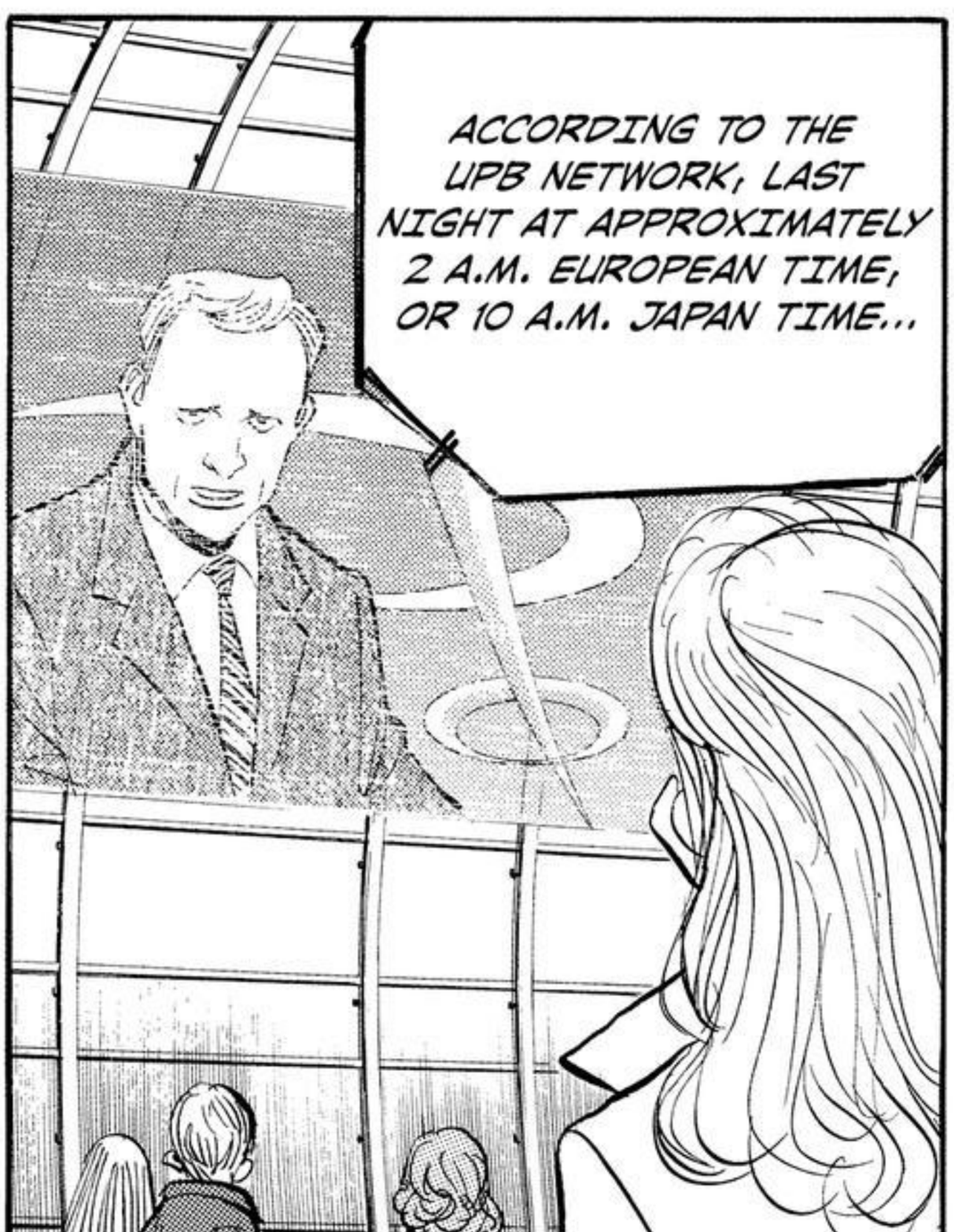

AH, MUCH BETTER... THANKS...
FEELING BETTER?

I'LL TURN OFF MY COMM FUNCTION SO WE CAN HAVE SOME PEACE AND QUIET...
THAT'S GOOD.

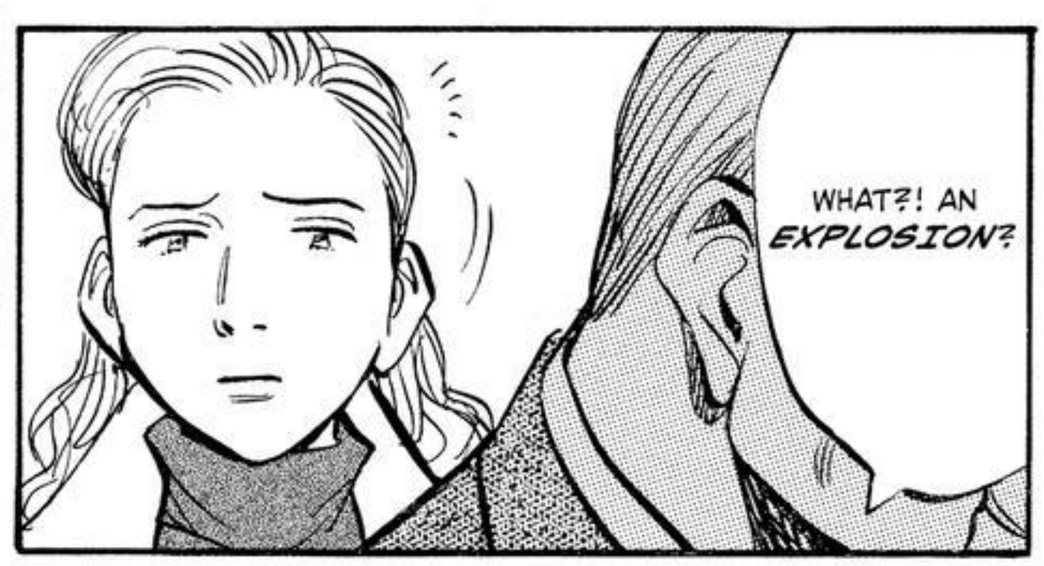
...PASSENGERS PLEASE PROCEED TO GATE 68...


SORRY, IT'S AN EMERGENCY CALL...
WHAT IS IT? A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE?


?!
GREAT.


ACCORDING TO THE UPB NETWORK, LAST NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2 A.M. EUROPEAN TIME, OR 10 A.M. JAPAN TIME...

GESICHT HERE...

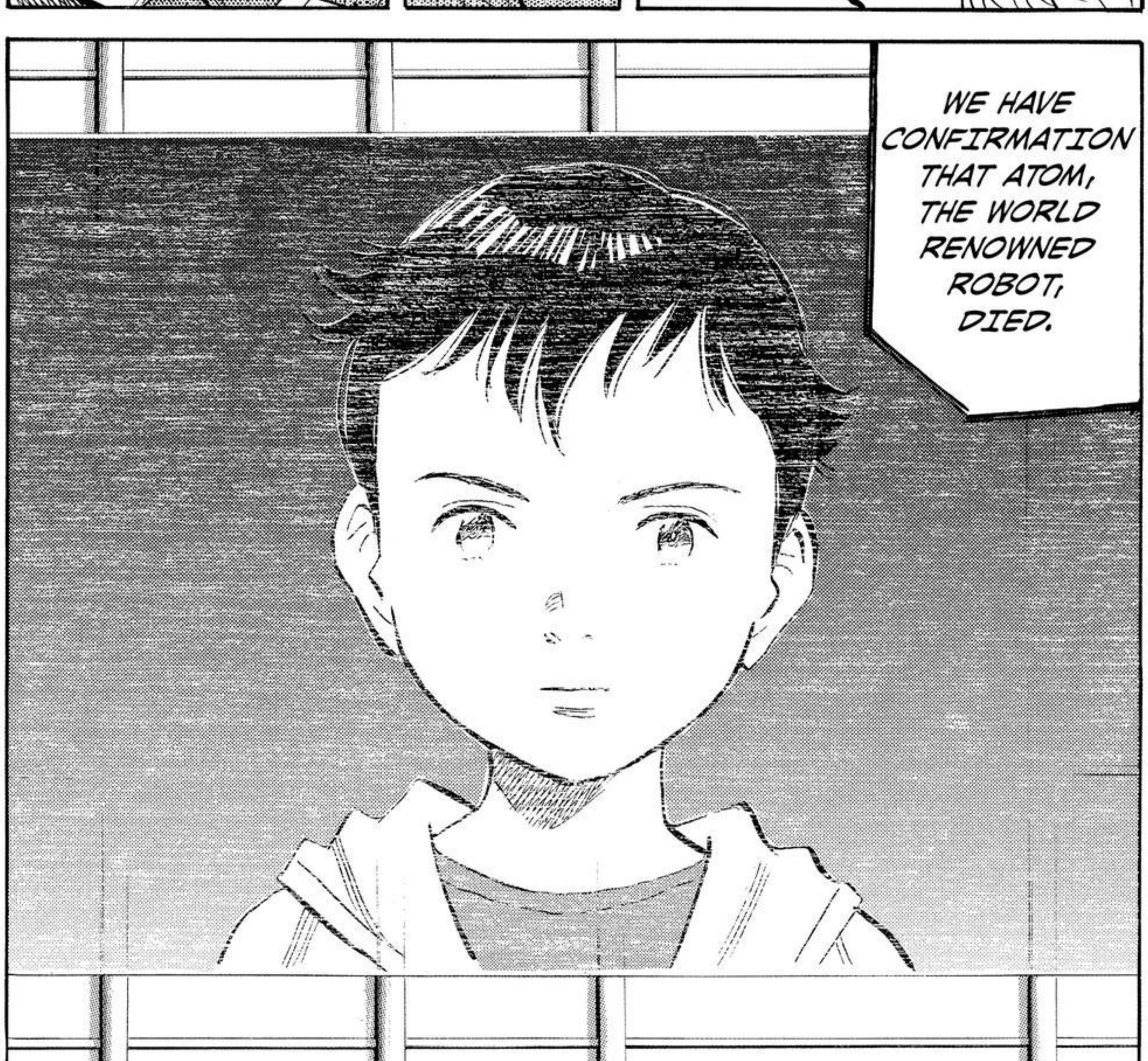

WHAT?! AN EXPLOSION?

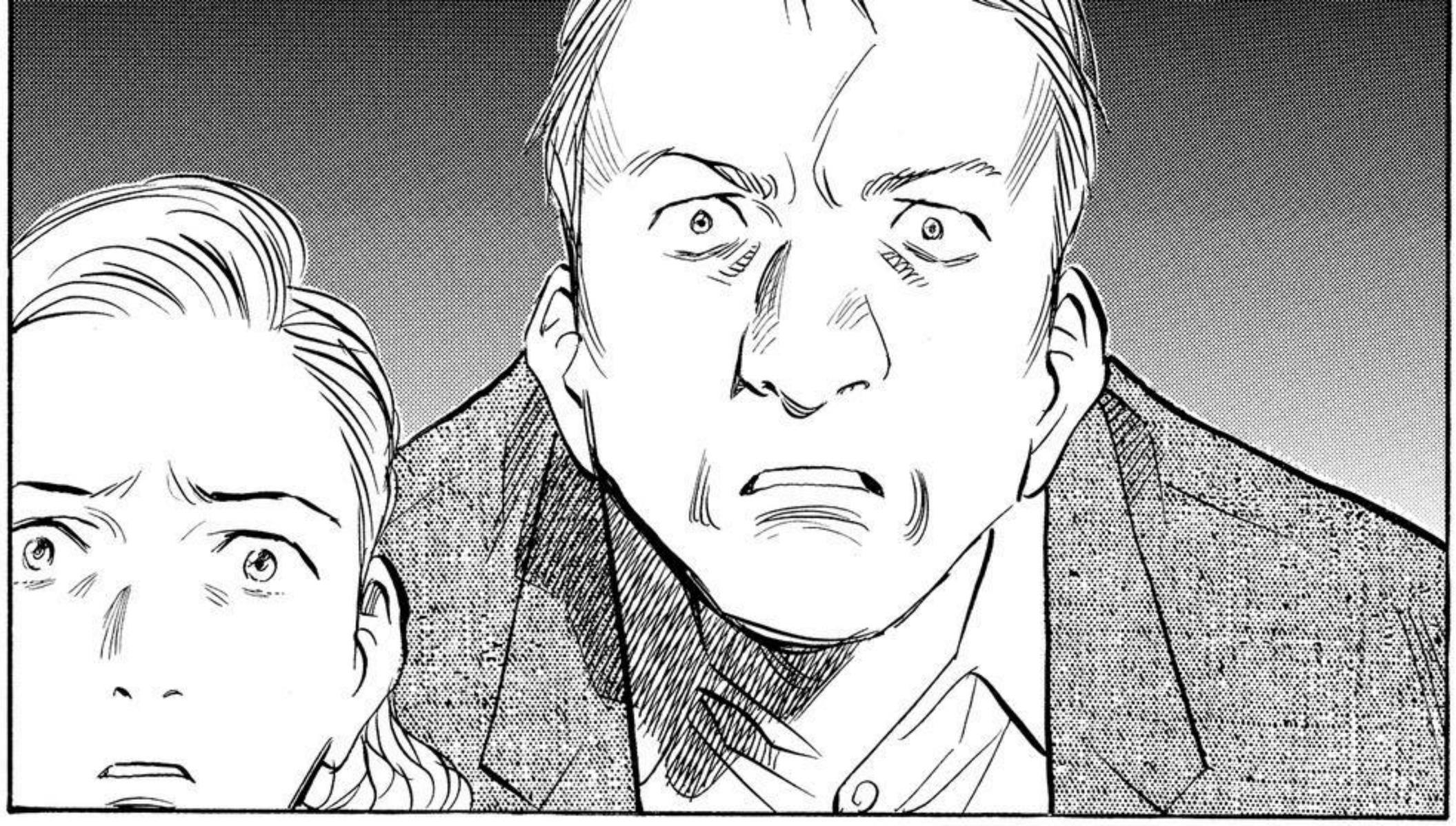
LOOK! LOOK AT THE *NEWS BULLETIN* !!
WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

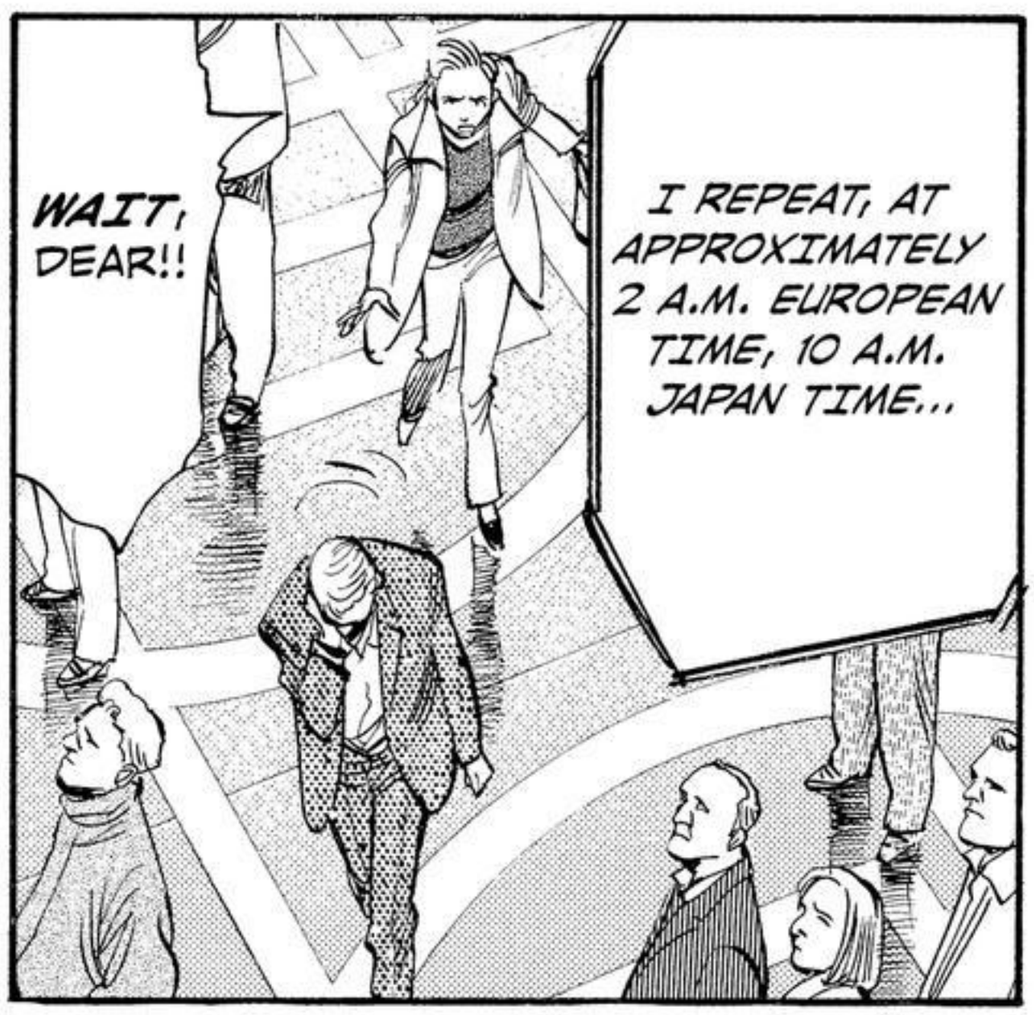
UH, EXCUSE ME A MINUTE...

DEAR...
WHAT KIND OF EXPLOSIVES WERE USED?

GESHCHT...


WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT ATOM, THE WORLD RENOWNED ROBOT, DIED.




WAIT, DEAR!!
I REPEAT, AT APPROXIMATELY 2 A.M. EUROPEAN TIME, 10 A.M. JAPAN TIME...

ATOM?!

DEAD ?!

GESICHT, WAIT!

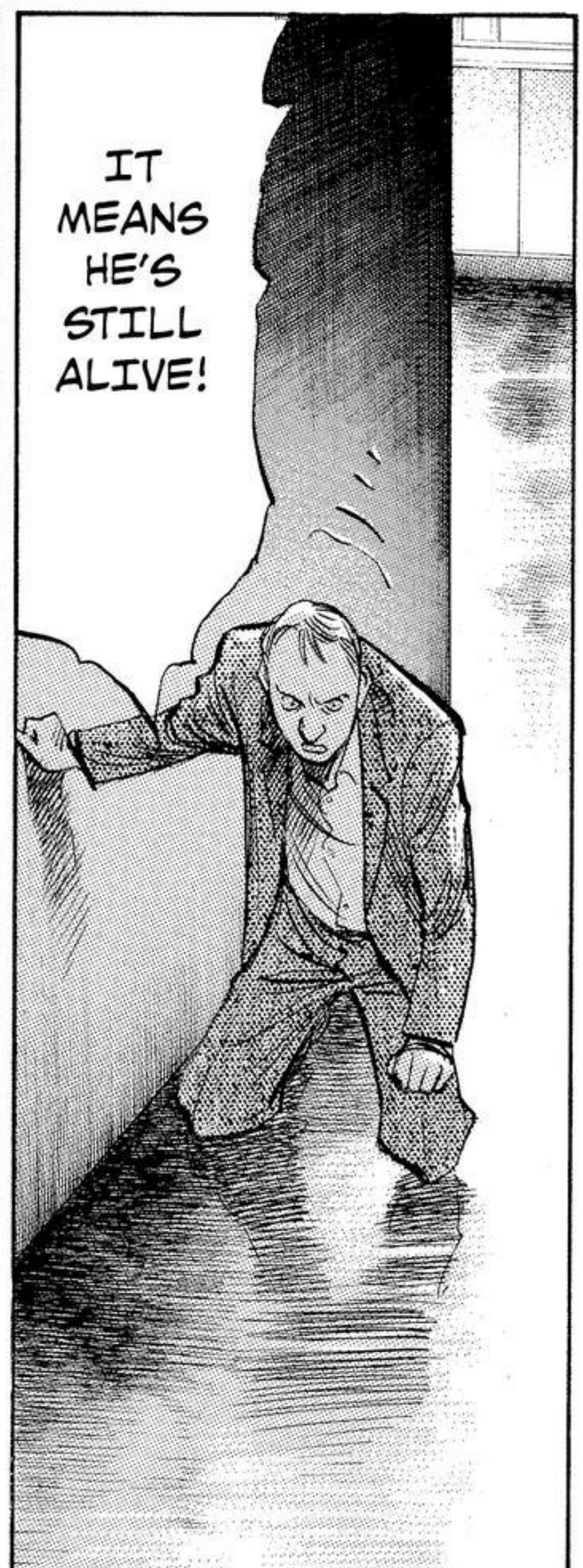
THE DEATH OF ATOM, THE WORLD RENOWNED ROBOT, WAS CONFIRMED ...

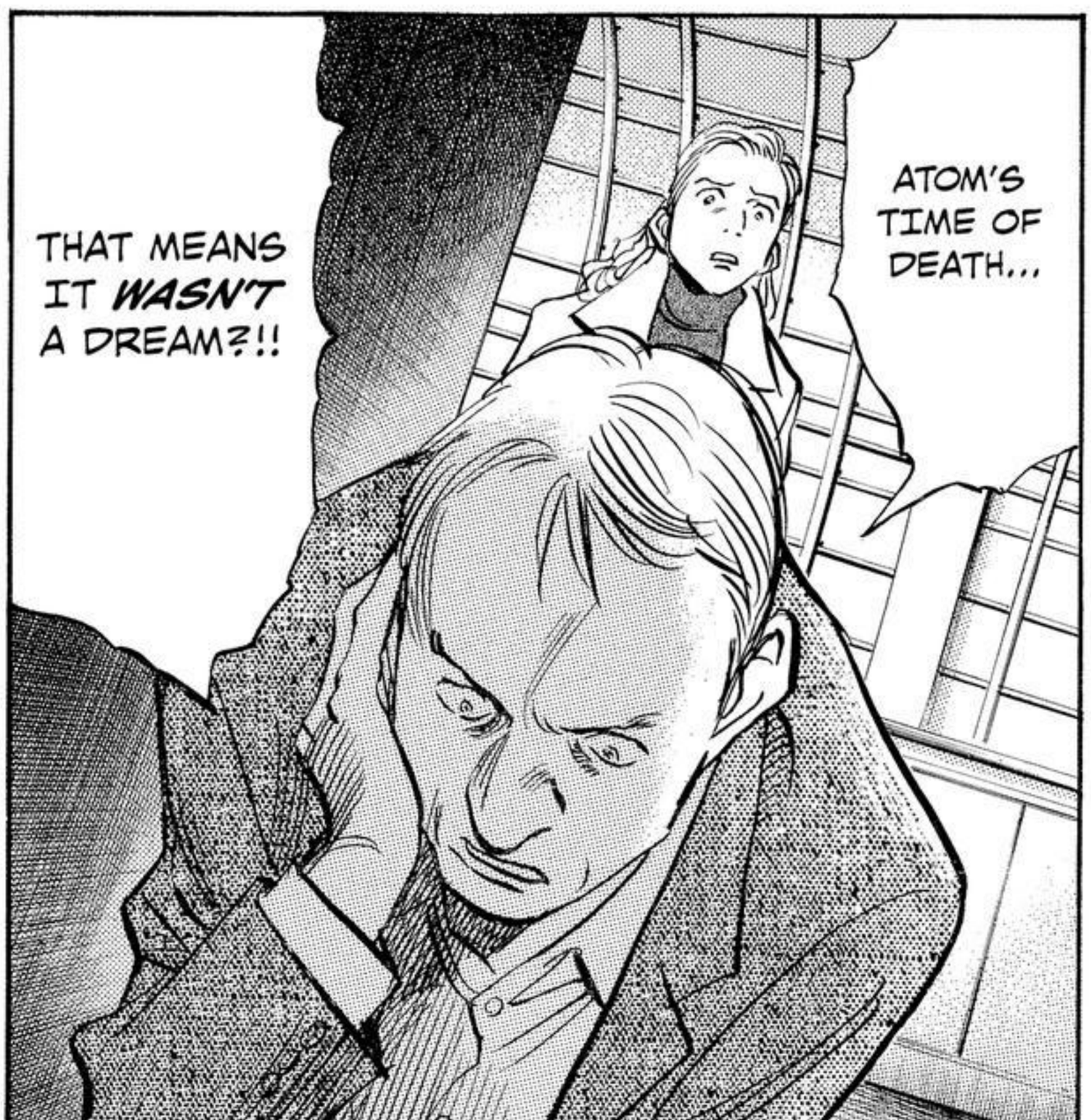
I KNOW WHO DID IT...

THE CAUSE OF DEATH HAS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED...

IT MUST'VE BEEN HIM!

MY DREAM LAST NIGHT...


IT MEANS HE'S STILL ALIVE!


THAT MEANS IT *WASN'T* A DREAM?!!
ATOM'S TIME OF DEATH...

GROAR
DEAR ...
I'M GOING INTO MY TRASH FILE...
GESICHT ...
KREISCH

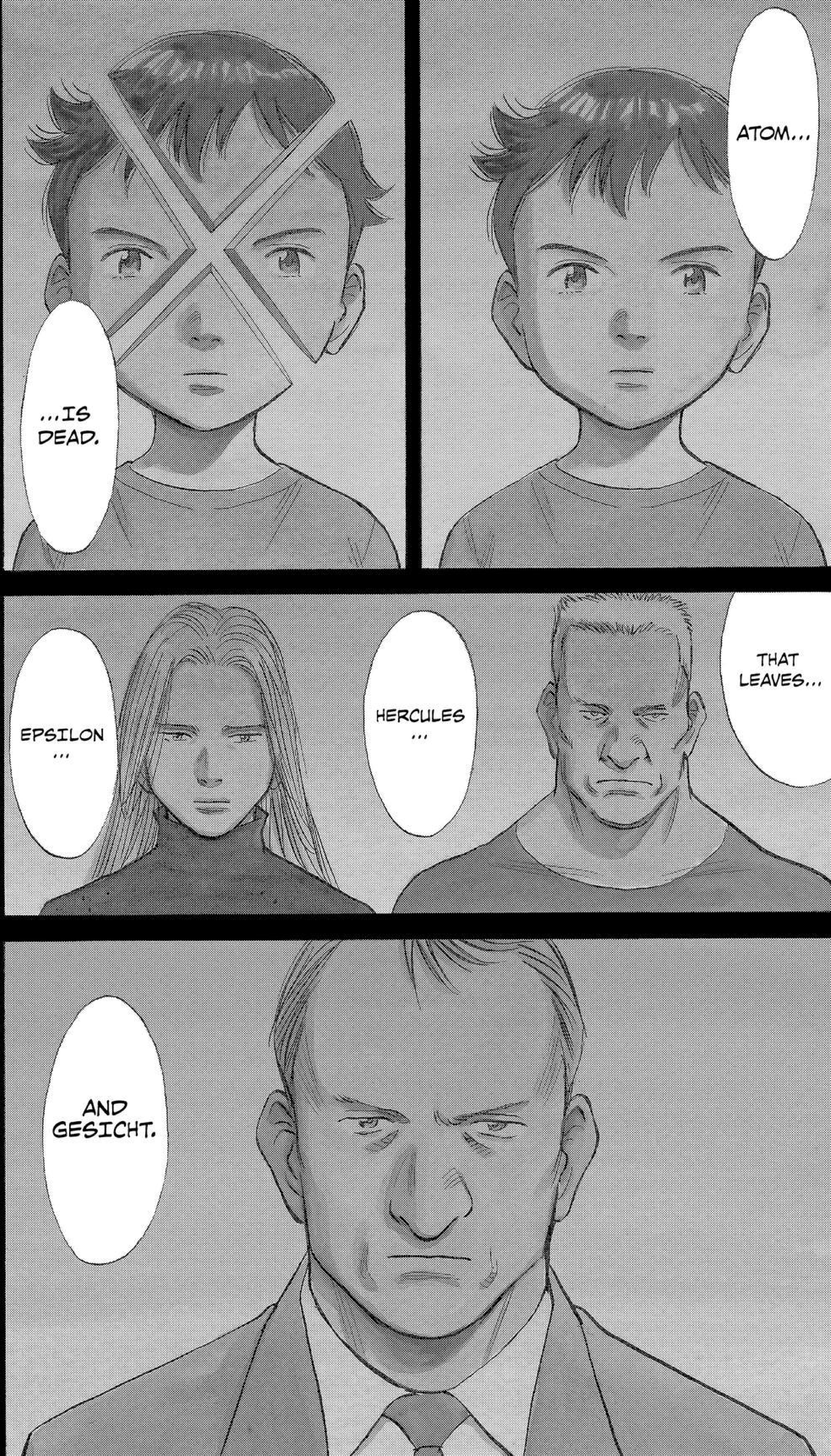
ATOM...
GESICHT ...
YOU AND PLUTO...
...ARE THE SAME...
ARE YOU THE ONE...
WHAT?!
...WHO KILLED ME?
WHAT?!
BZZT
BZZT
SURREEEE

GESICHT!!

THUD

500 ZEUS A BODY.

Act 28 EMERGENCY CALL



VRNN

VRNN

VRNN

VRNN

SOON IT'LL BE OVER.

Act 28

EMERGENCY CALL

THREE MORE TO GO...

GRASH!!

TOBIO ...

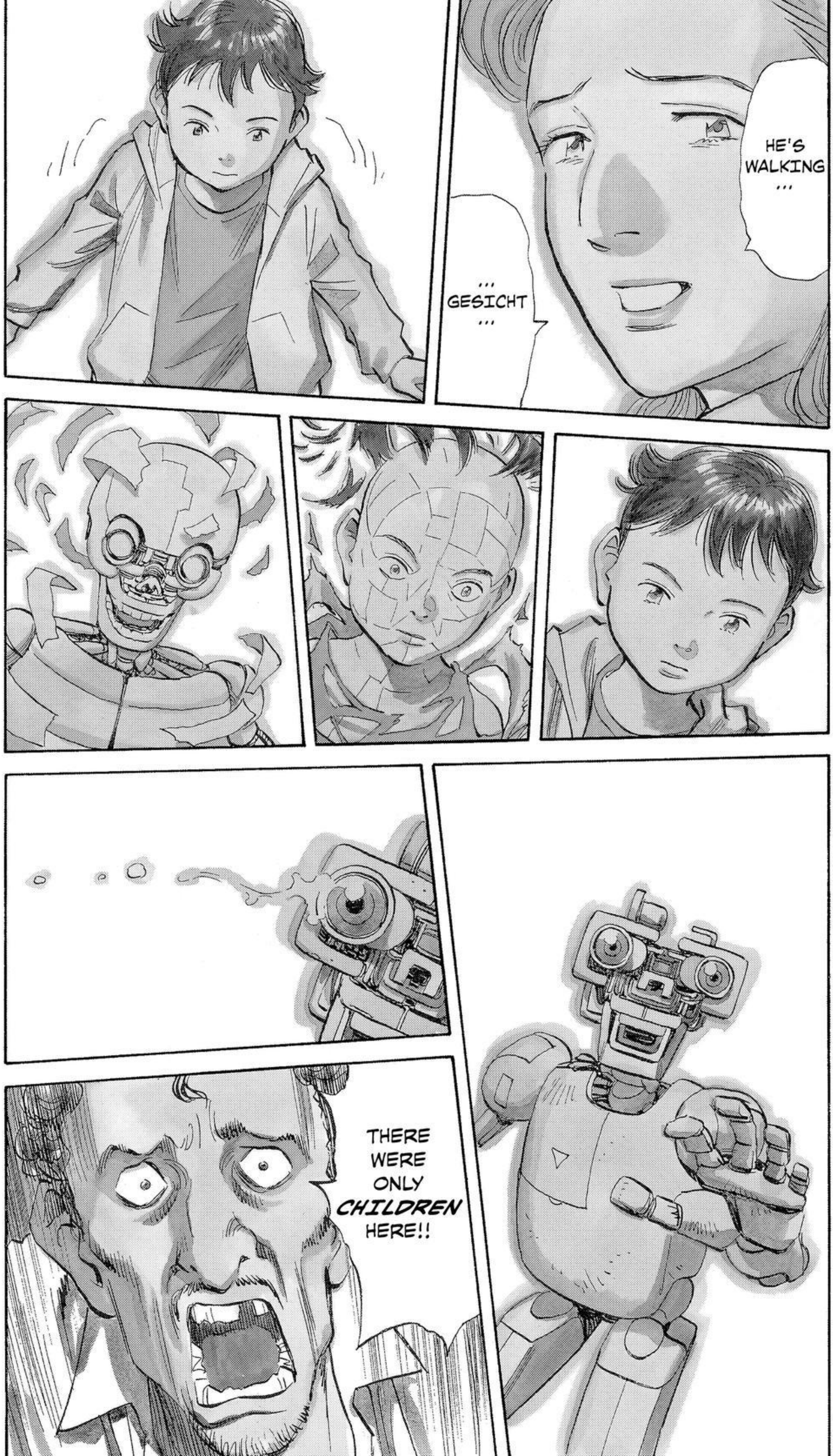
TOBIO!

THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT ...!!

HURRY! SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!!

KRAK!!

JUST TRY A FEW STEPS...
HE DID IT!
HE REALLY WALKED!
HE WALKED!
HE'S WALKING ...
IT'S OKAY, TOBIO...


HE'S WALKING ...
... GESICHT ...
THERE WERE ONLY CHILDREN HERE!!

YOU DROPPED YOUR BOMBS ON MY *SLEEPING CHILDREN*!!

ARGH!...

ARGH!...

ARGHH!!!

BAM

BAM

URGAHH!!!

RMM RMM RMM

CRASH

BAASH

SCANNING MEMORY...

PREPARING TO REFORMAT...

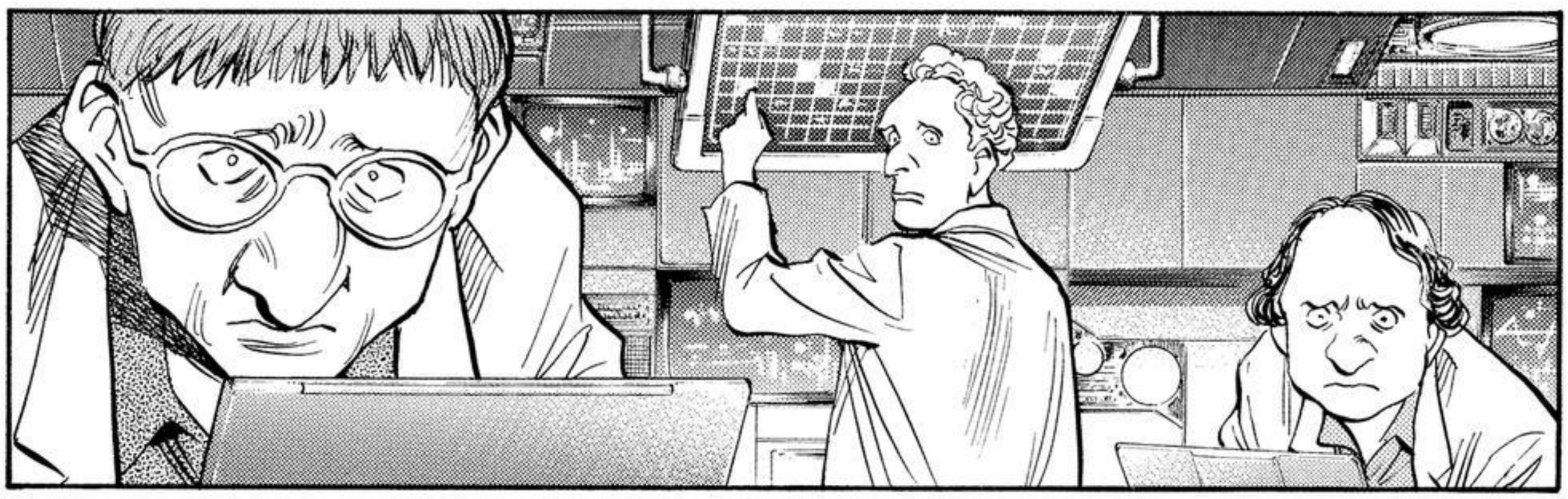
BEEEEEEEEP

THE ARTIFICIAL NEURONS KEEP FIRING ON THEIR OWN...

NO SIGN OF VIRUSES...

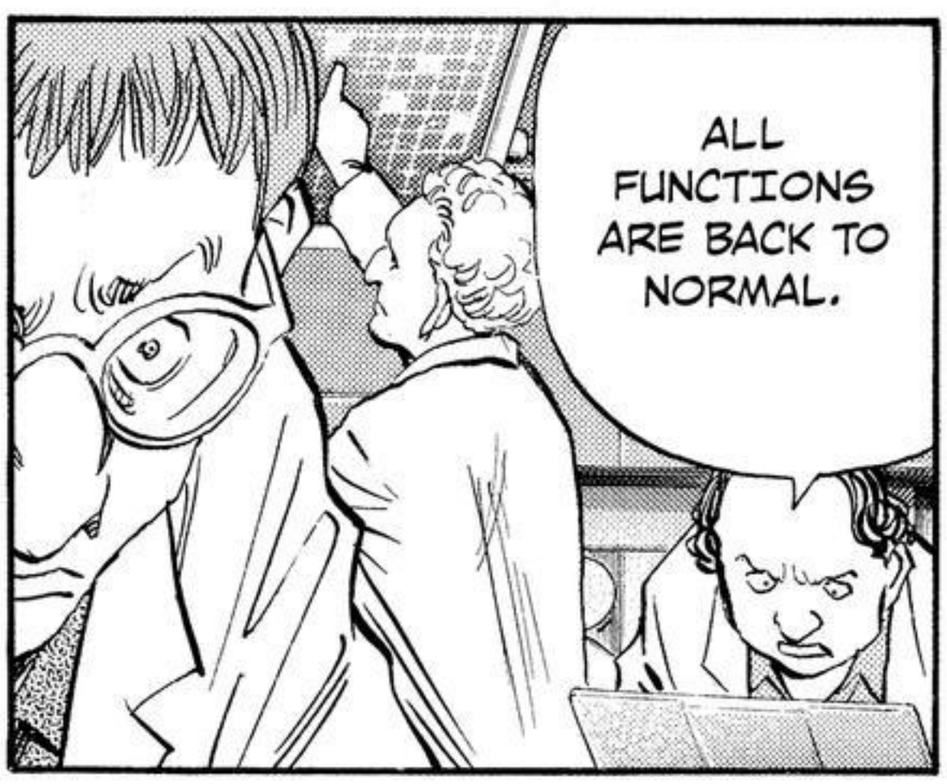
IT KEEPS MALFUNCTIONING!!

WHUSH!



UH...
Y-YES...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GESICHT?


ALL FUNCTIONS ARE BACK TO NORMAL.

I'VE GOT TO GO...

NO...

YOU PASSED OUT AT THE AIRPORT, GESICHT...

JUST LIE BACK AND REST FOR A WHILE.

I RECEIVED AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM HEADQUARTERS ...

GO...? GO WHERE ...?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, DEAR...

I DIDN'T INTEND TO RUIN OUR VACATION...

SORRY, HELENA...

YOU MUST BE WORRIED... HAVING HIM RUN BACK TO WORK SO SOON AFTER THIS INCIDENT...

WHOOP

I KNOW, DEAR...

I... I'LL SEE YOU LATER...

EUROPOL, GERMAN DIVISION

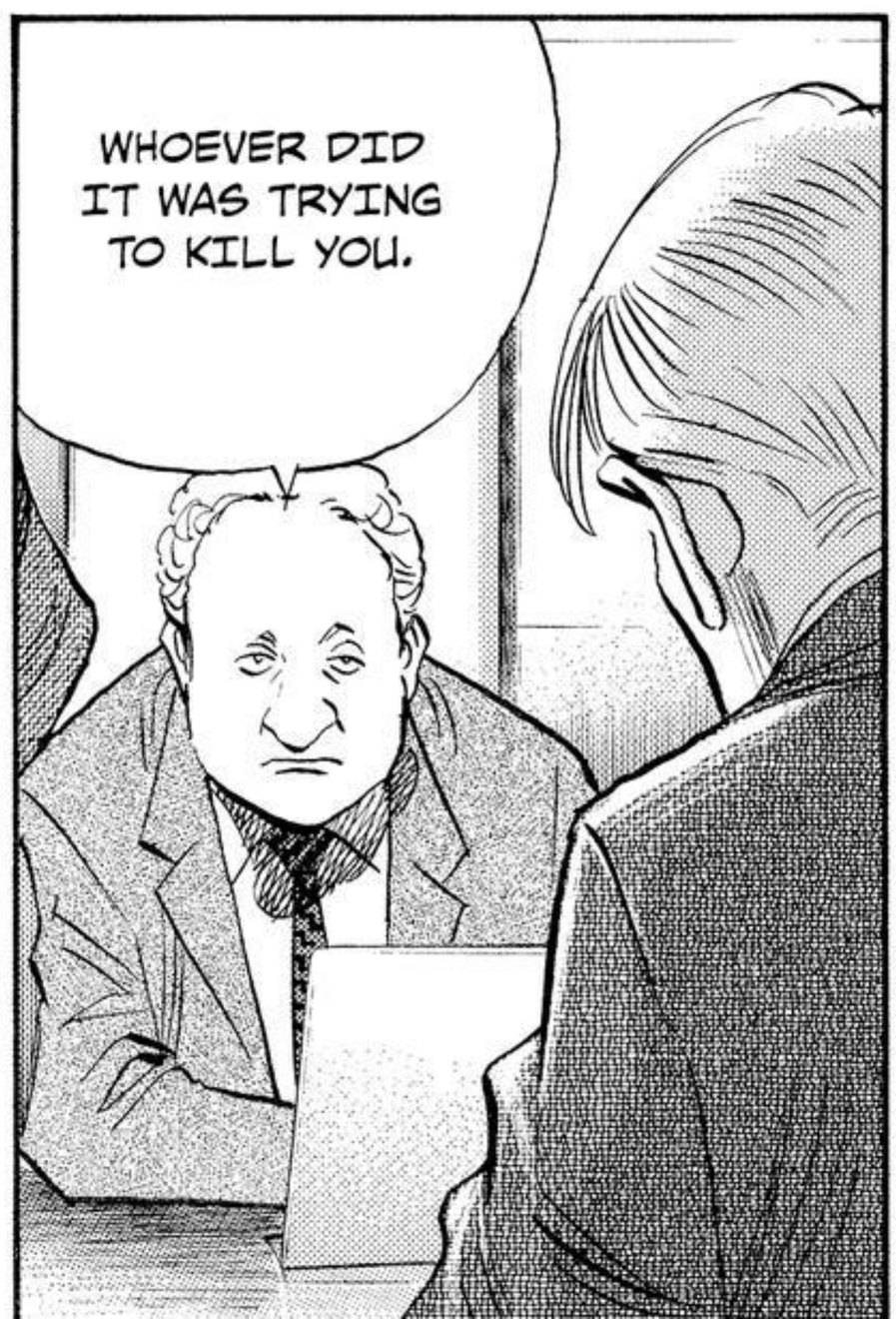
IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO WORK THAN TO TRAVEL TO JAPAN, WHERE ATOM DIED...

NO...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE ATOM IS DEAD...

...

YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN'T RECALL ANYONE WHO MIGHT HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU, MR. HAAS?



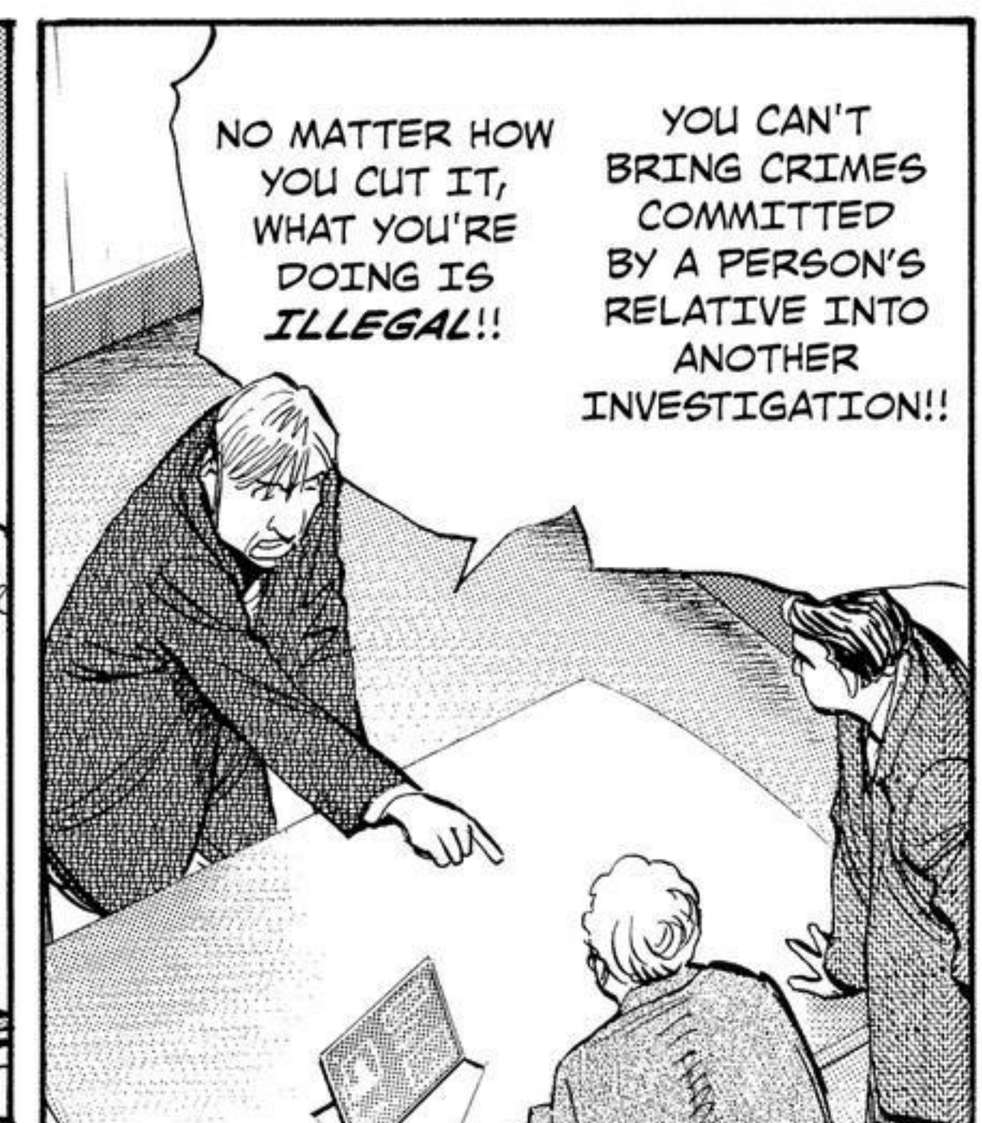
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MR. HAAS ...

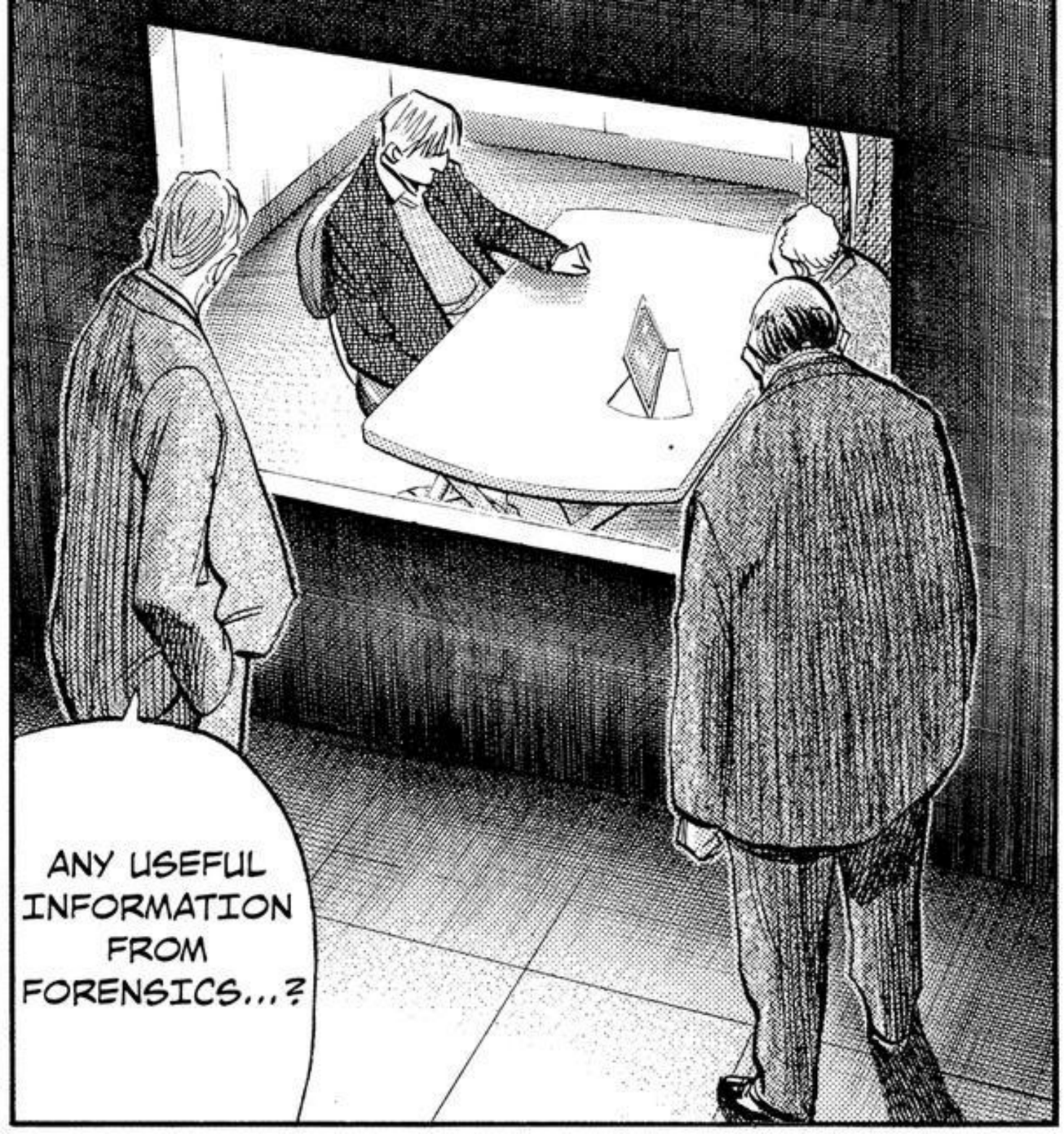
WHY ARE YOU QUESTIONING ME LIKE A CRIMINAL?!!

HEY, DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BLOMBERG CIVIL RIGHTS LAW?

!!
...WE HAVE A FILE HERE ON YOUR *BROTHER.*

AHEM... ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T RECALL ANYONE, MR. HAAS?

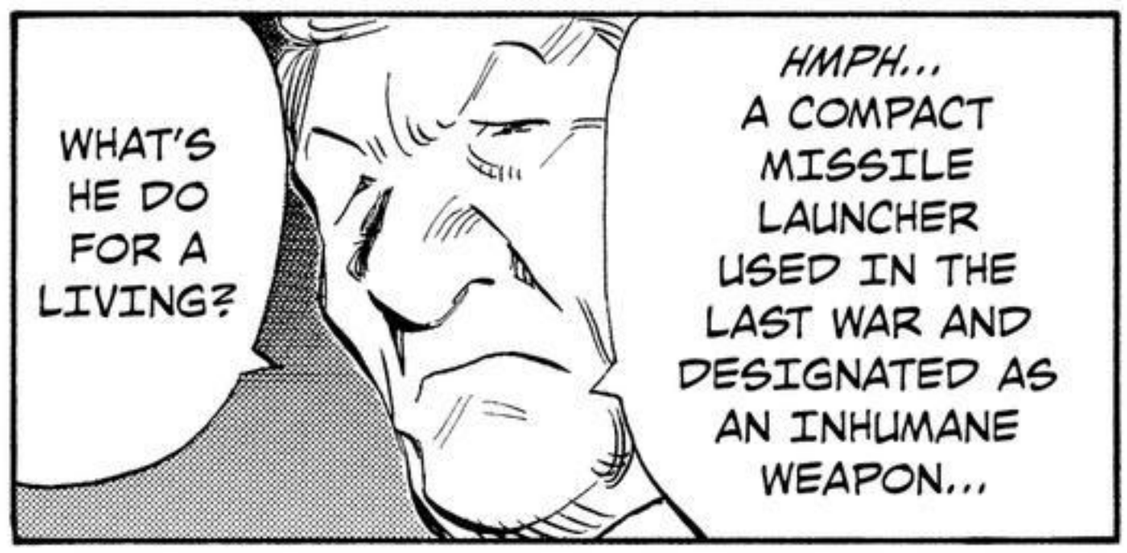

NO MATTER HOW YOU CUT IT, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS *ILLEGAL*!!
YOU CAN'T BRING CRIMES COMMITTED BY A PERSON'S RELATIVE INTO ANOTHER INVESTIGATION!!


ANY USEFUL INFORMATION FROM FORENSICS...?

I DON'T AND THAT'S FINAL!!

HE'S IN AN IMPORT-EXPORT COMPANY.
COULD THAT BE A COVER FOR AN ARMS MERCHANT?

WE FOUND THE REMNANTS OF AN MZ-390 IN THE WRECKAGE OF HIS CAR...
IT'S JUST AS WE THOUGHT. THERE'S NO MISTAKE...


WHAT'S HE DO FOR A LIVING?
HMPH... A COMPACT MISSILE LAUNCHER USED IN THE LAST WAR AND DESIGNATED AS AN INHUMANE WEAPON...

YOU MEAN HIS FAMILY, RIGHT...?

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PERSONAL BACKGROUND...
HMM...

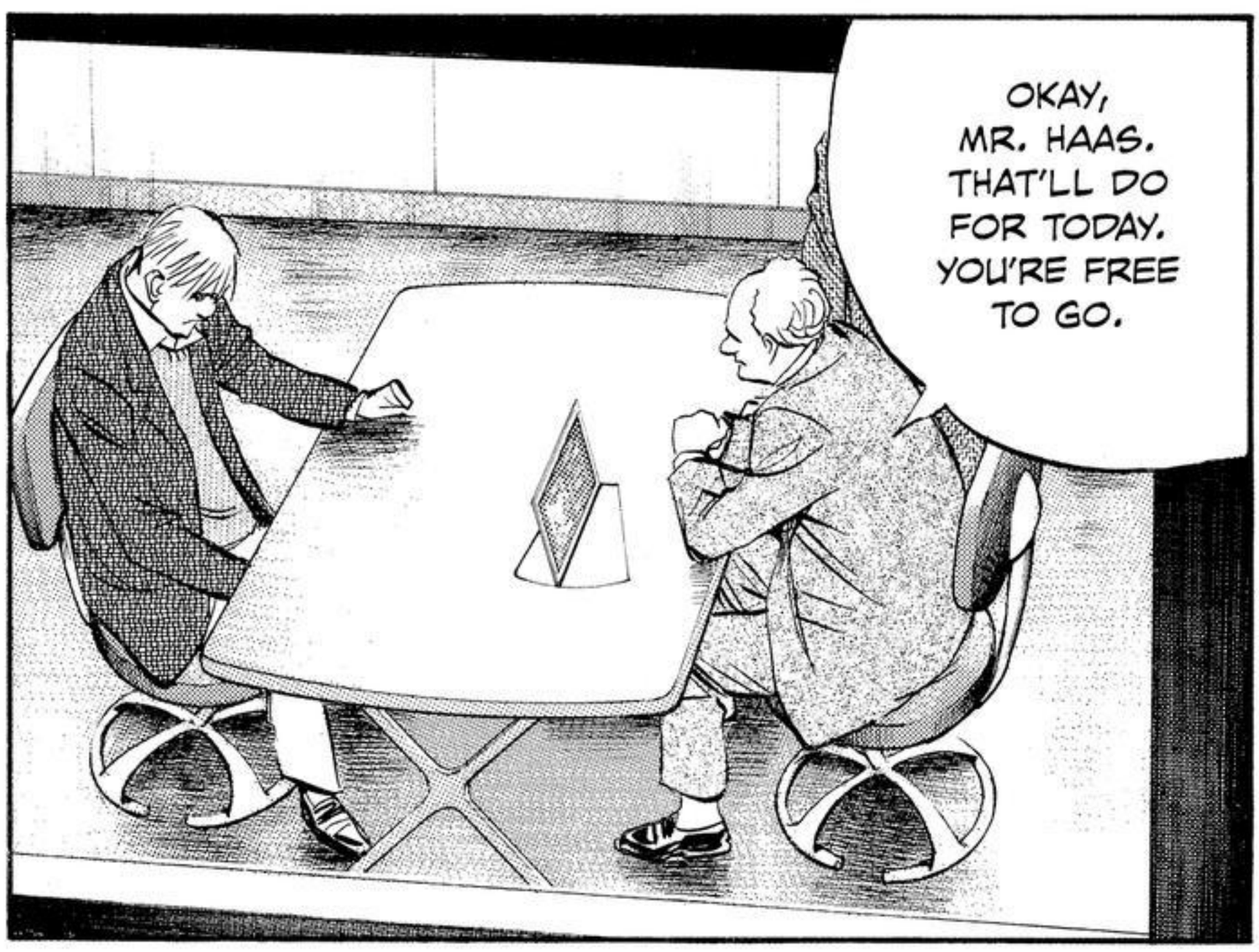
YES... BUT...UH... THIS MAN'S BROTHER WAS...

KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, AS ORDERED...

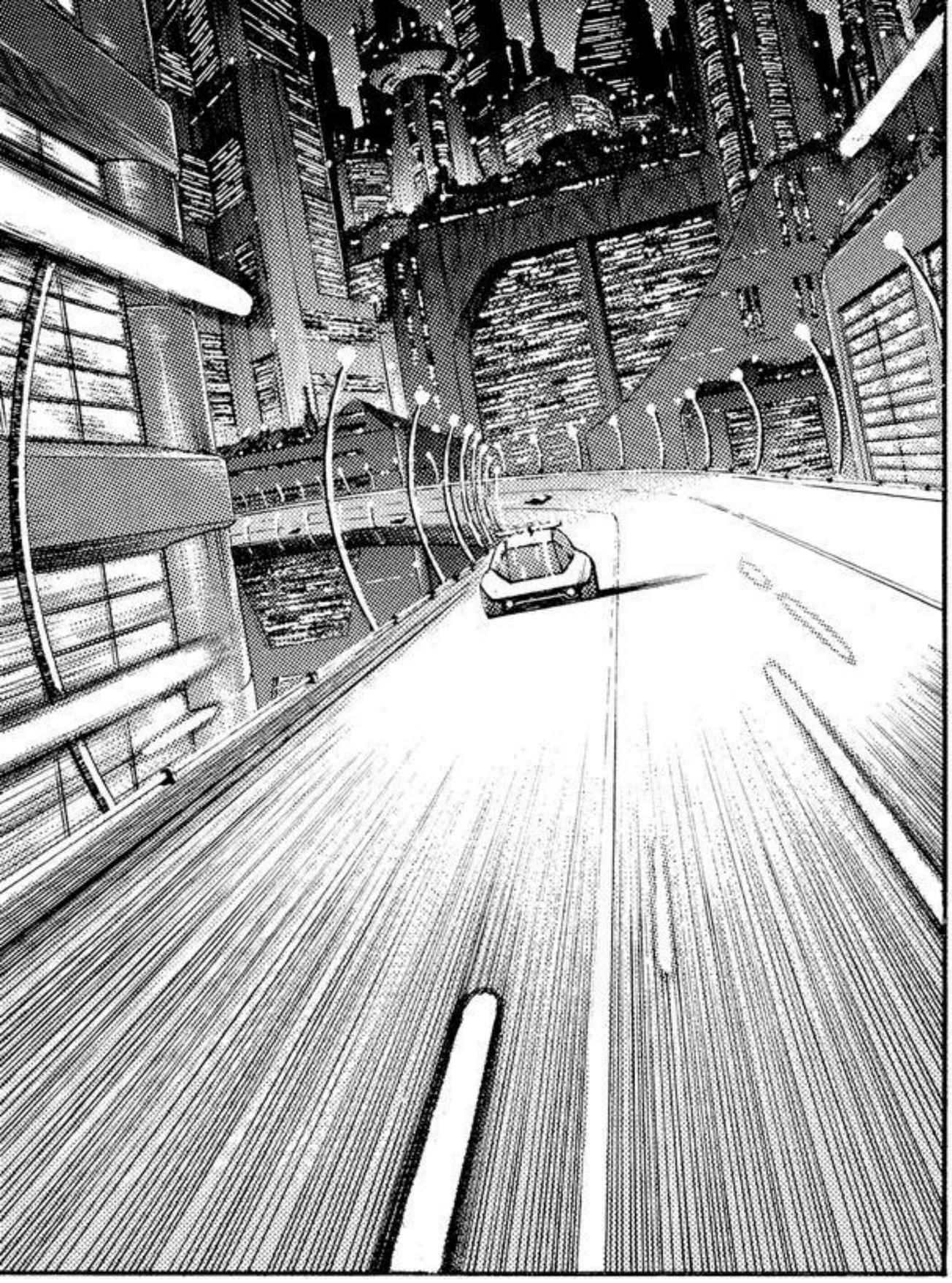
WHAT *CHOICE* DO WE HAVE?
LISTEN... AN MZ-390-- A HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON-- IS INVOLVED IN THIS CASE...

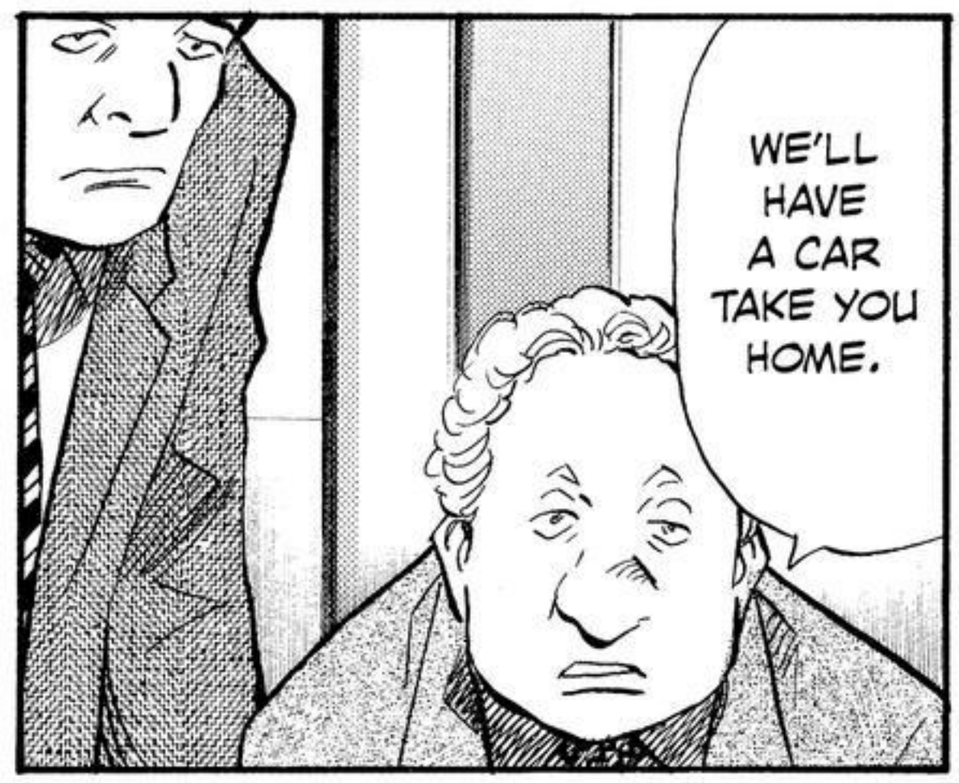
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW.
THE PROSECUTOR DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT... IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE.

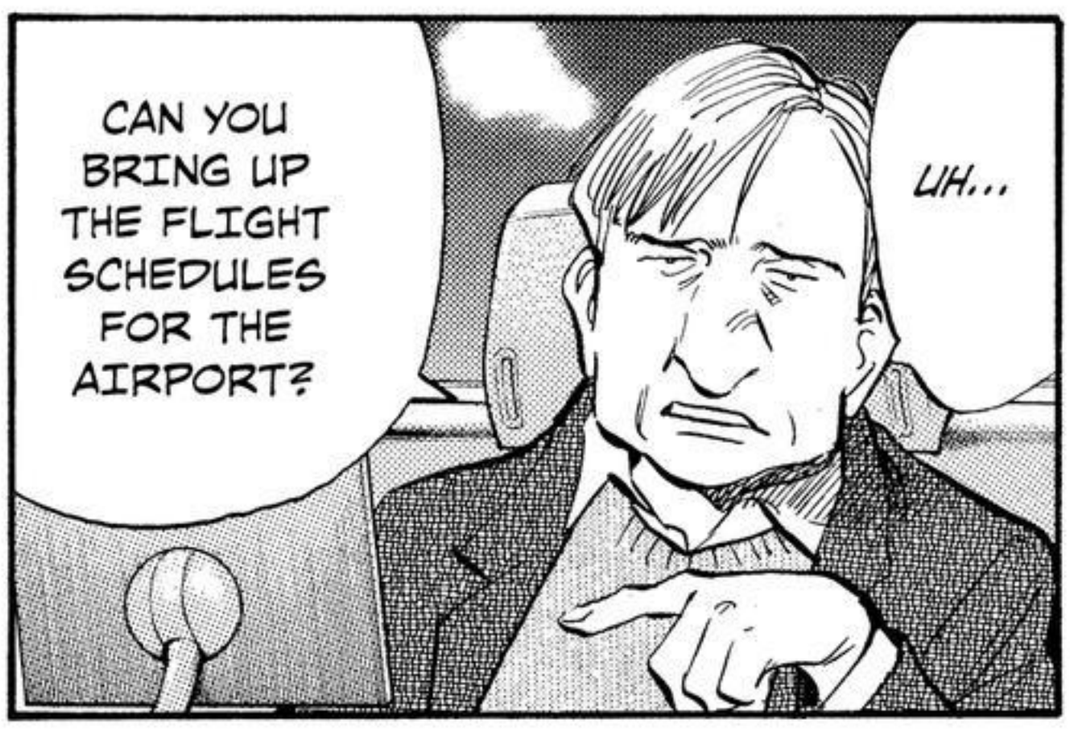
YES, OF COURSE... BUT PERHAPS HE'LL...

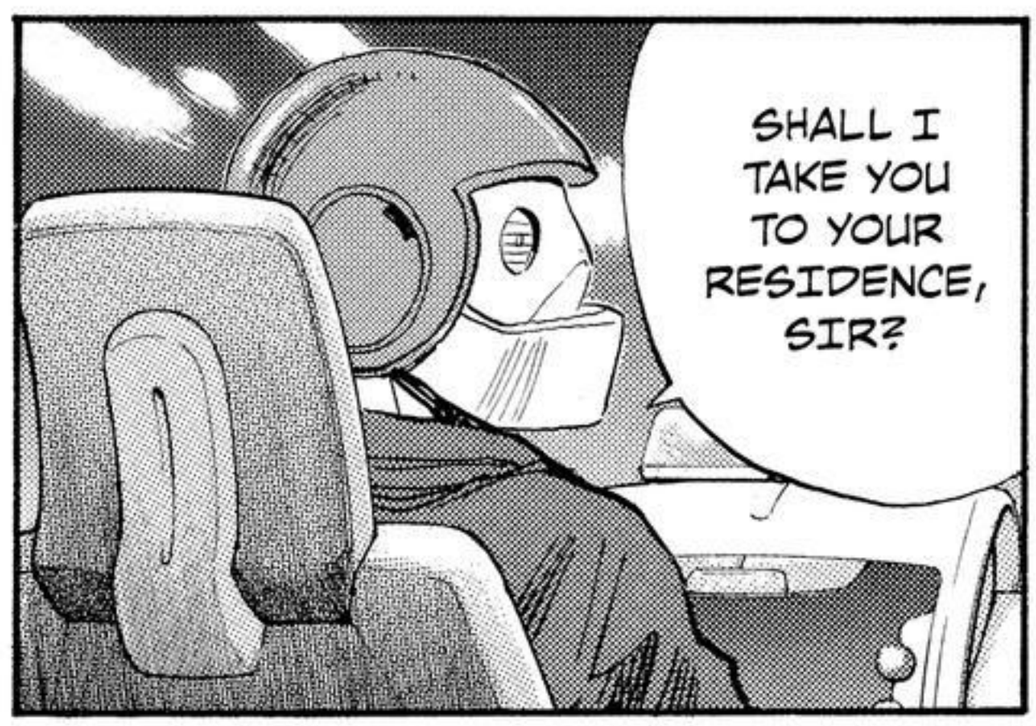

OKAY, MR. HAAS. THAT'LL DO FOR TODAY. YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

...

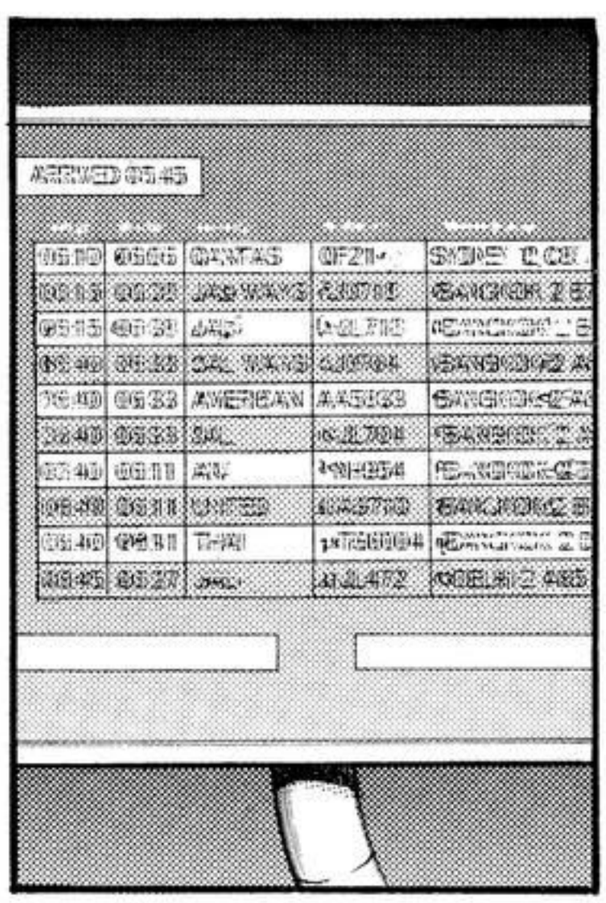



WE'LL HAVE A CAR TAKE YOU HOME.

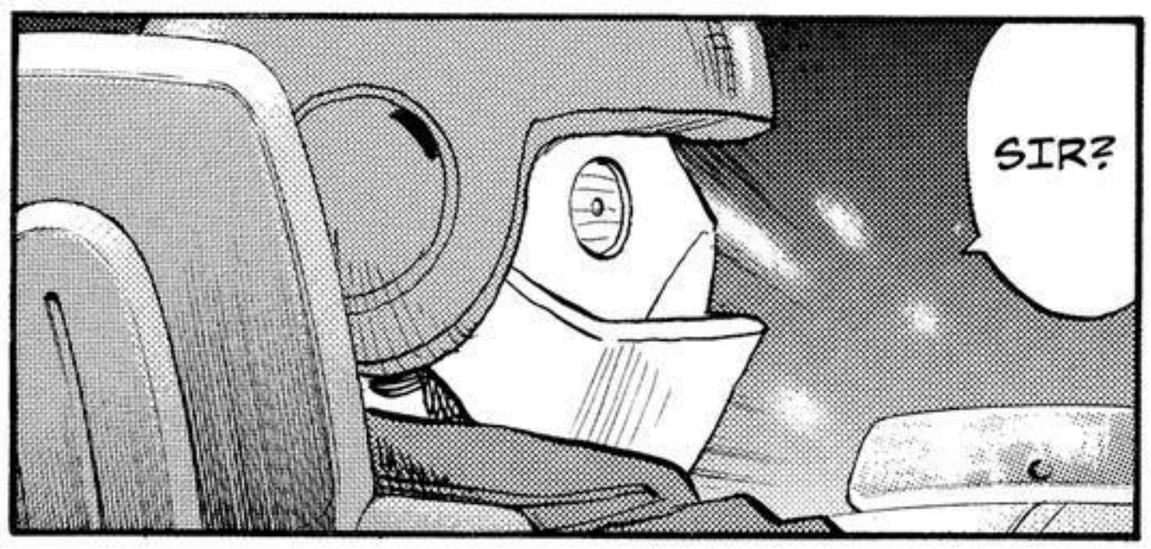

CAN YOU BRING UP THE FLIGHT SCHEDULES FOR THE AIRPORT?
UH...


SHALL I TAKE YOU TO YOUR RESIDENCE, SIR?

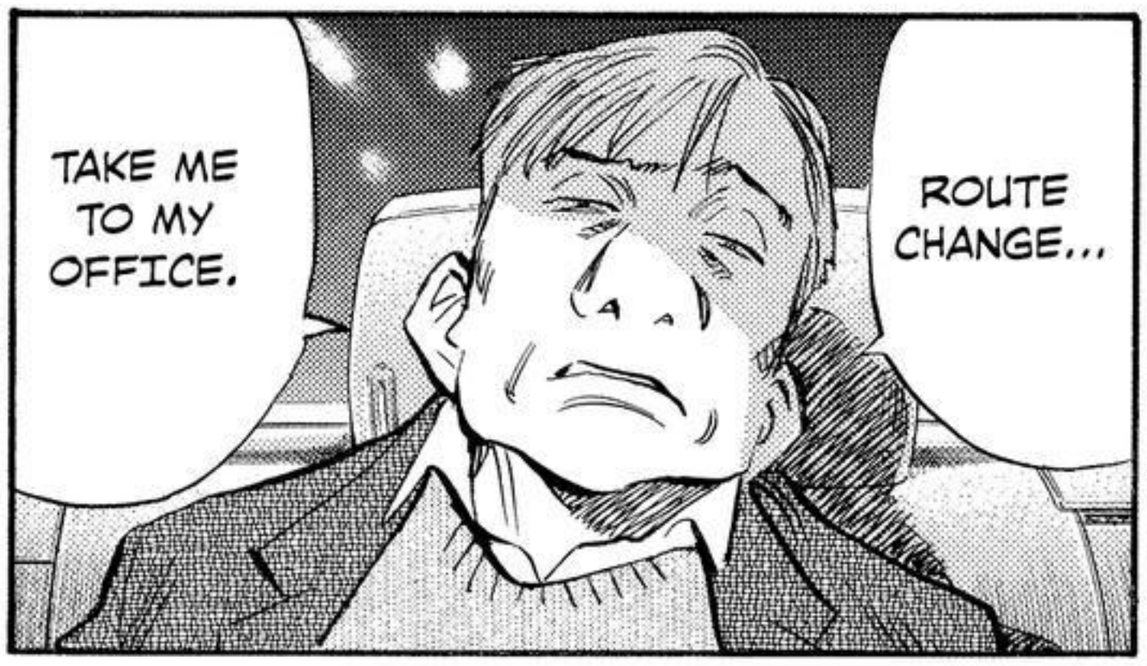
THE FLIGHT TO JAPAN TOOK OFF ON SCHEDULE!!
DAMN!!



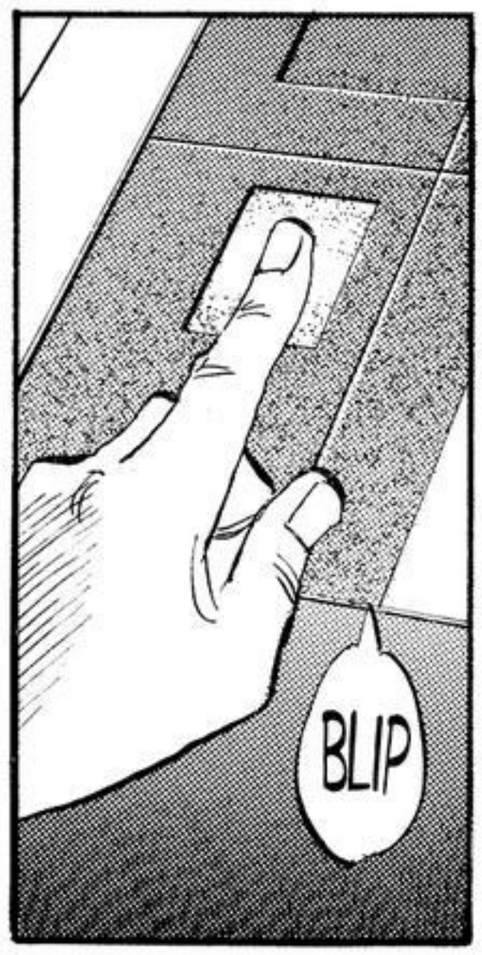
OF COURSE, SIR.
BLIP

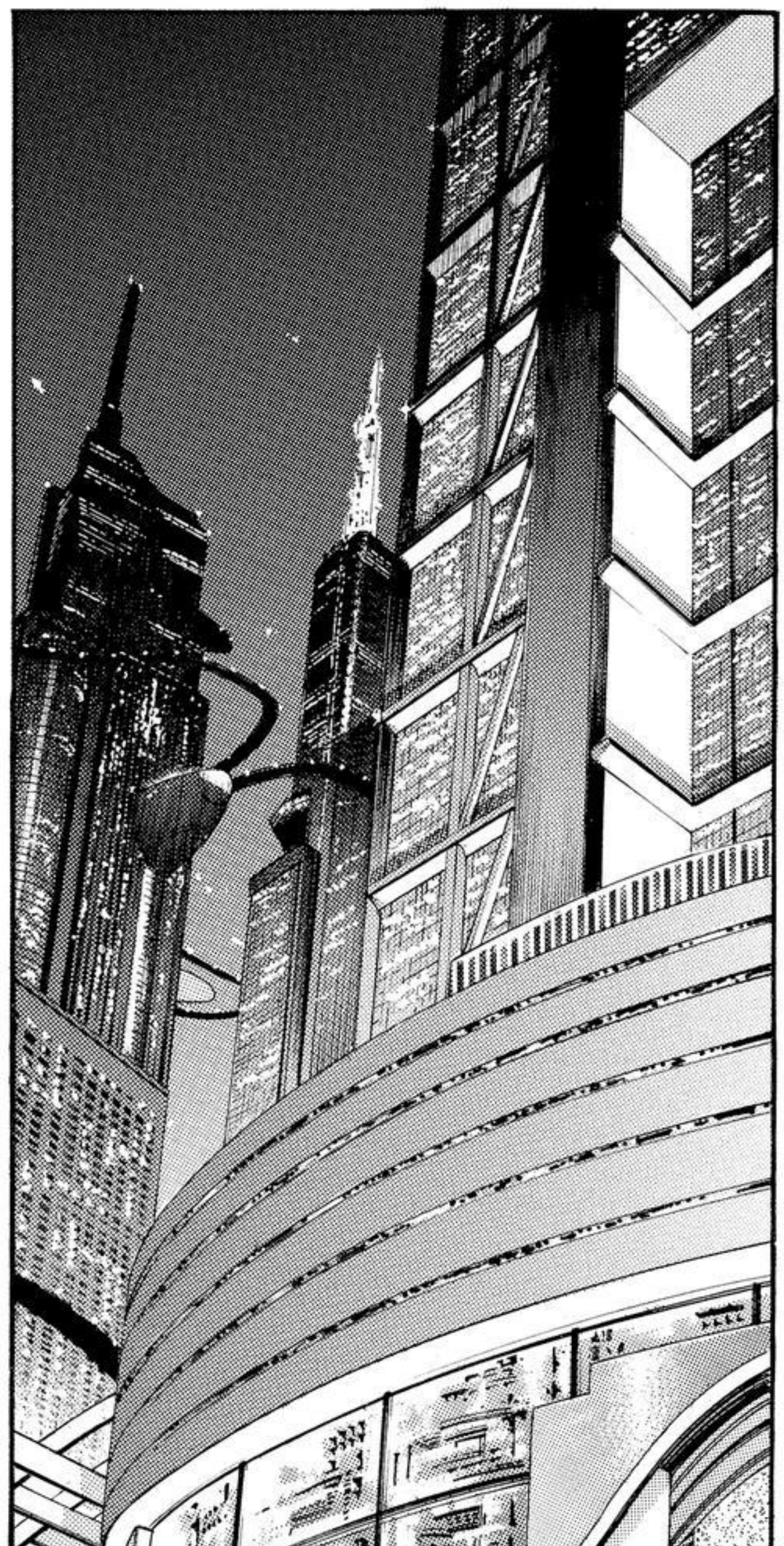

SIR?

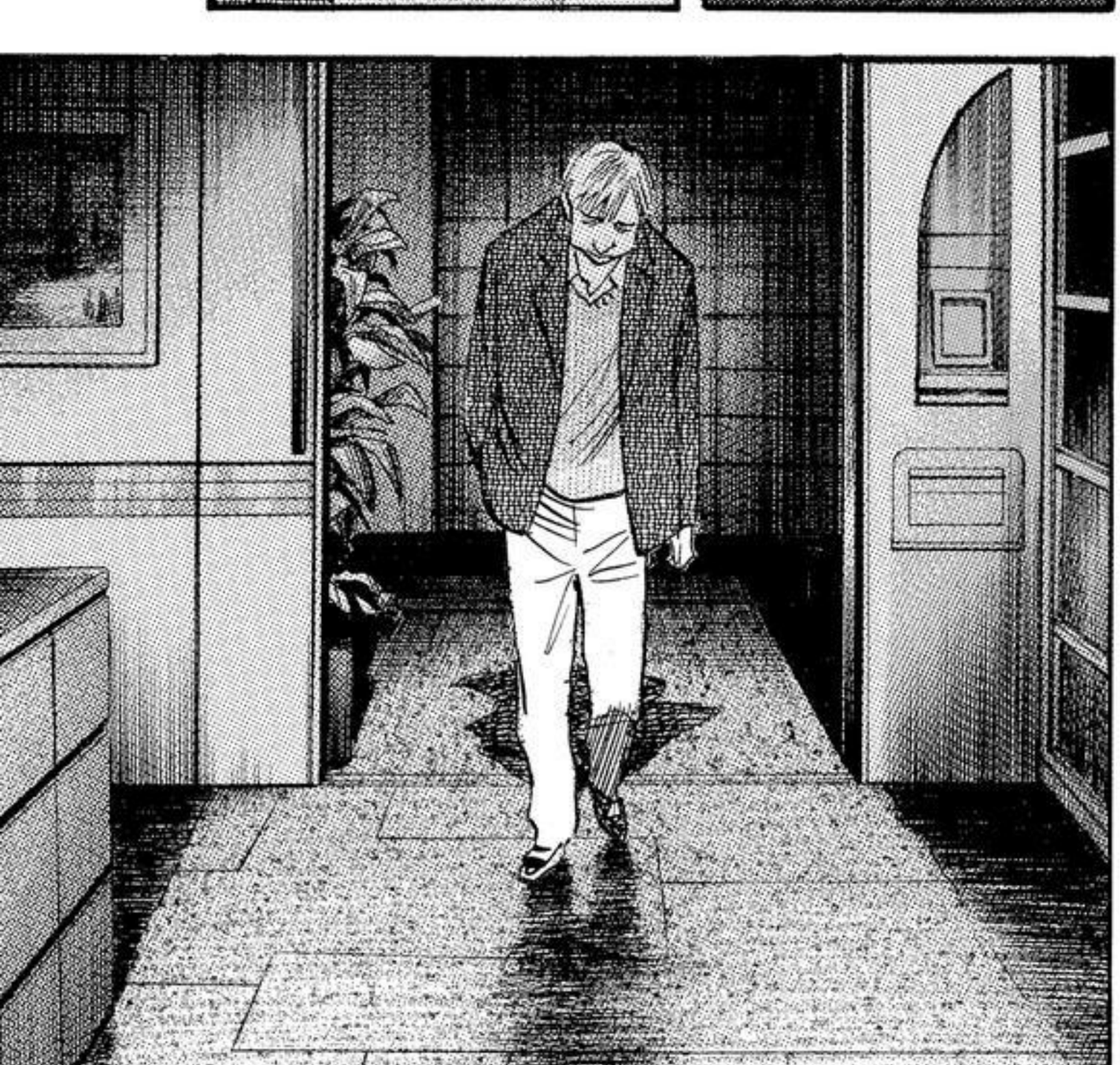
I MISSED MY CHANCE!!

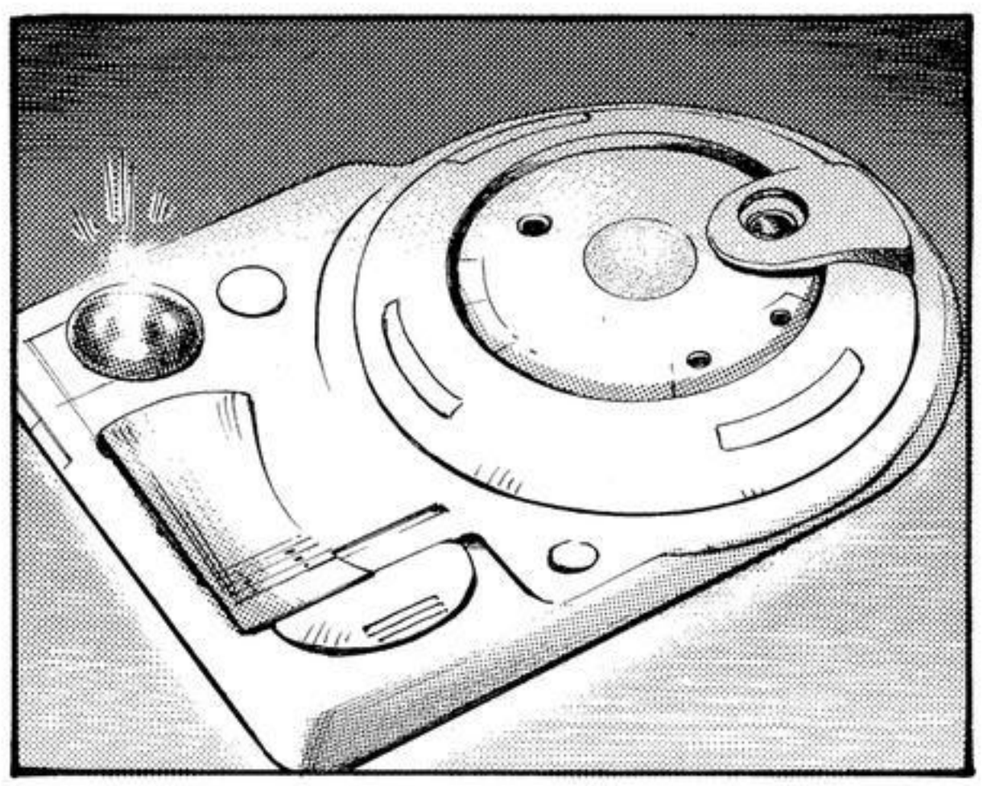

TAKE ME TO MY OFFICE.
ROUTE CHANGE...

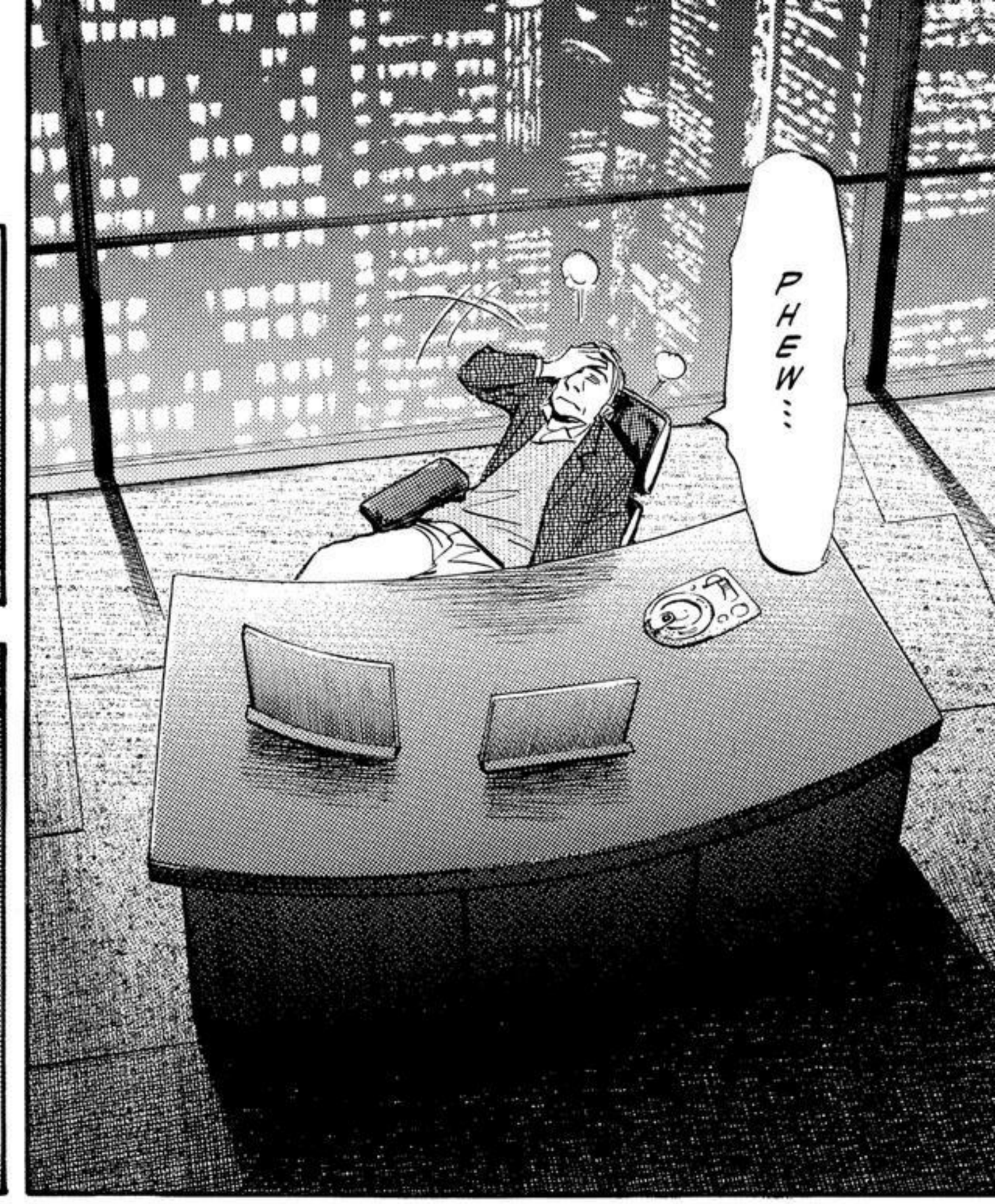
ZHOOP——

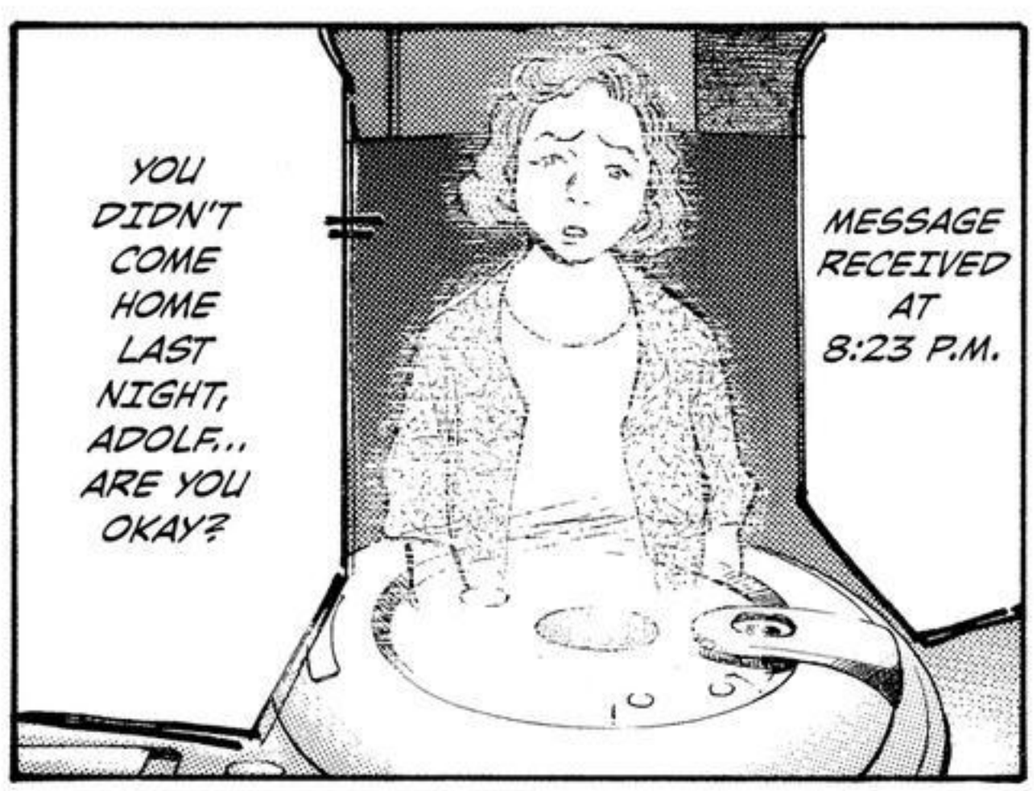

BLIP



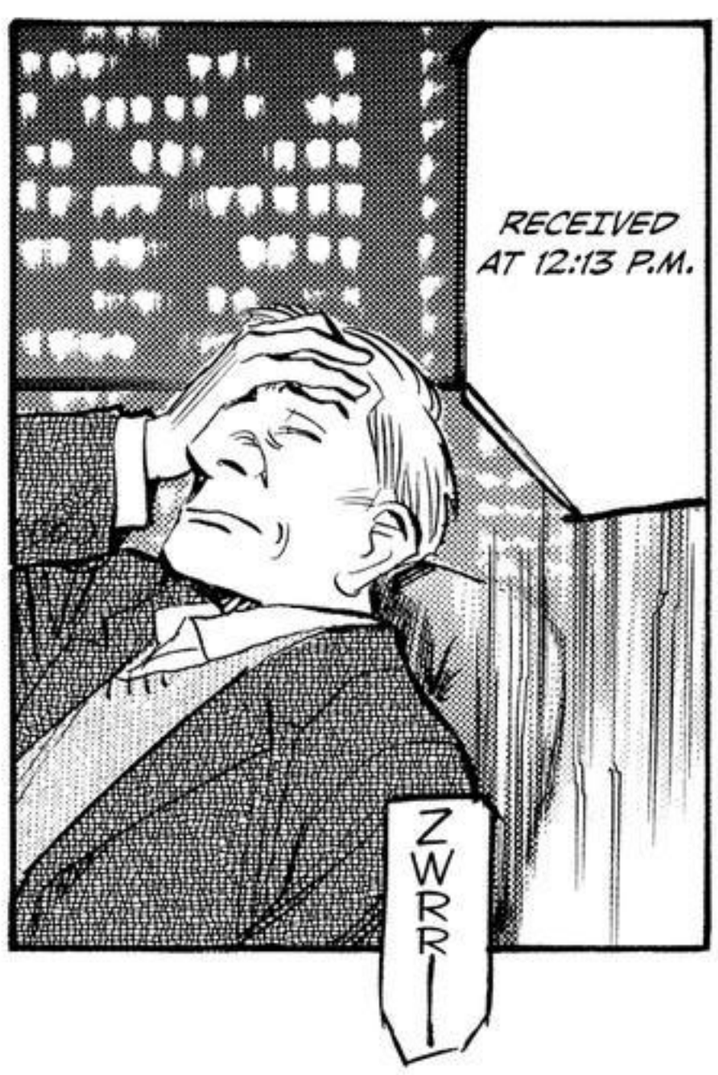




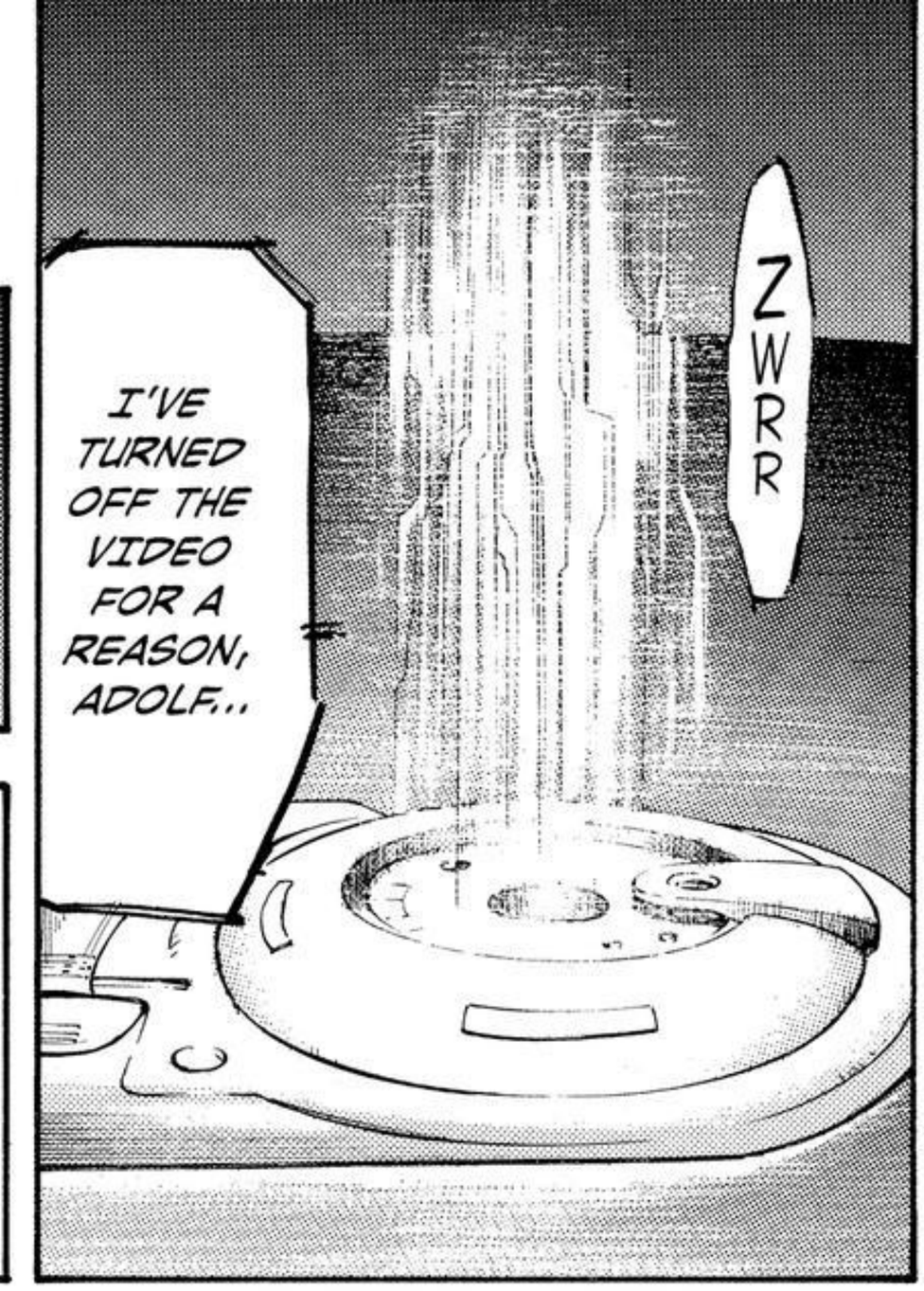

PHEW...

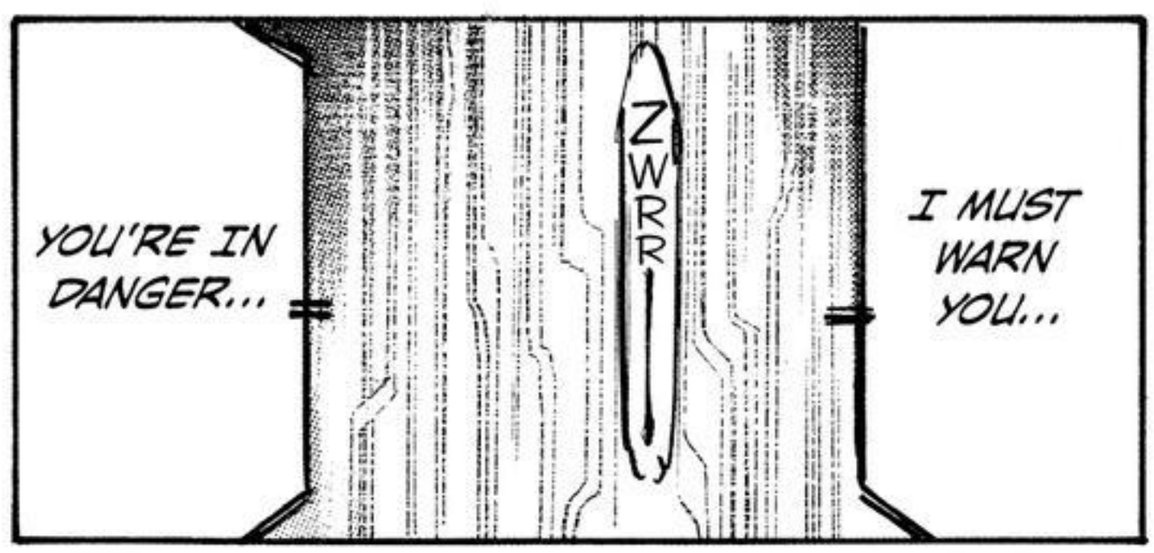

YOU DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT, ADOLF... ARE YOU OKAY?
MESSAGE RECEIVED AT 8:23 P.M.

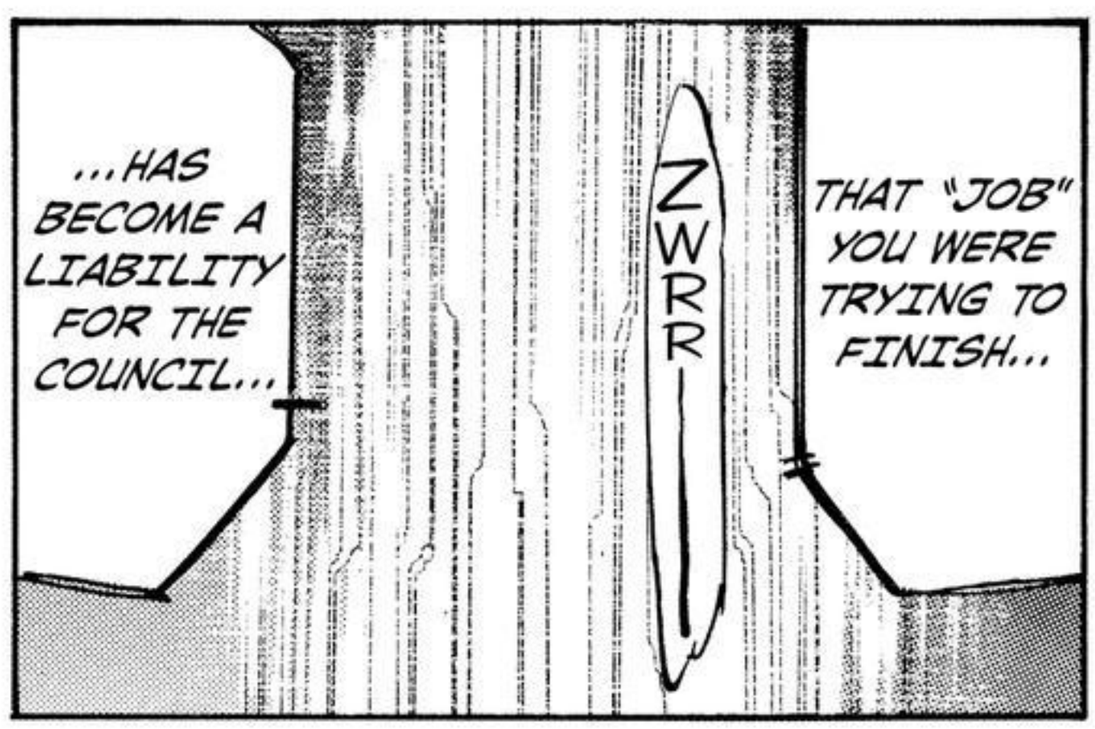
BEEP

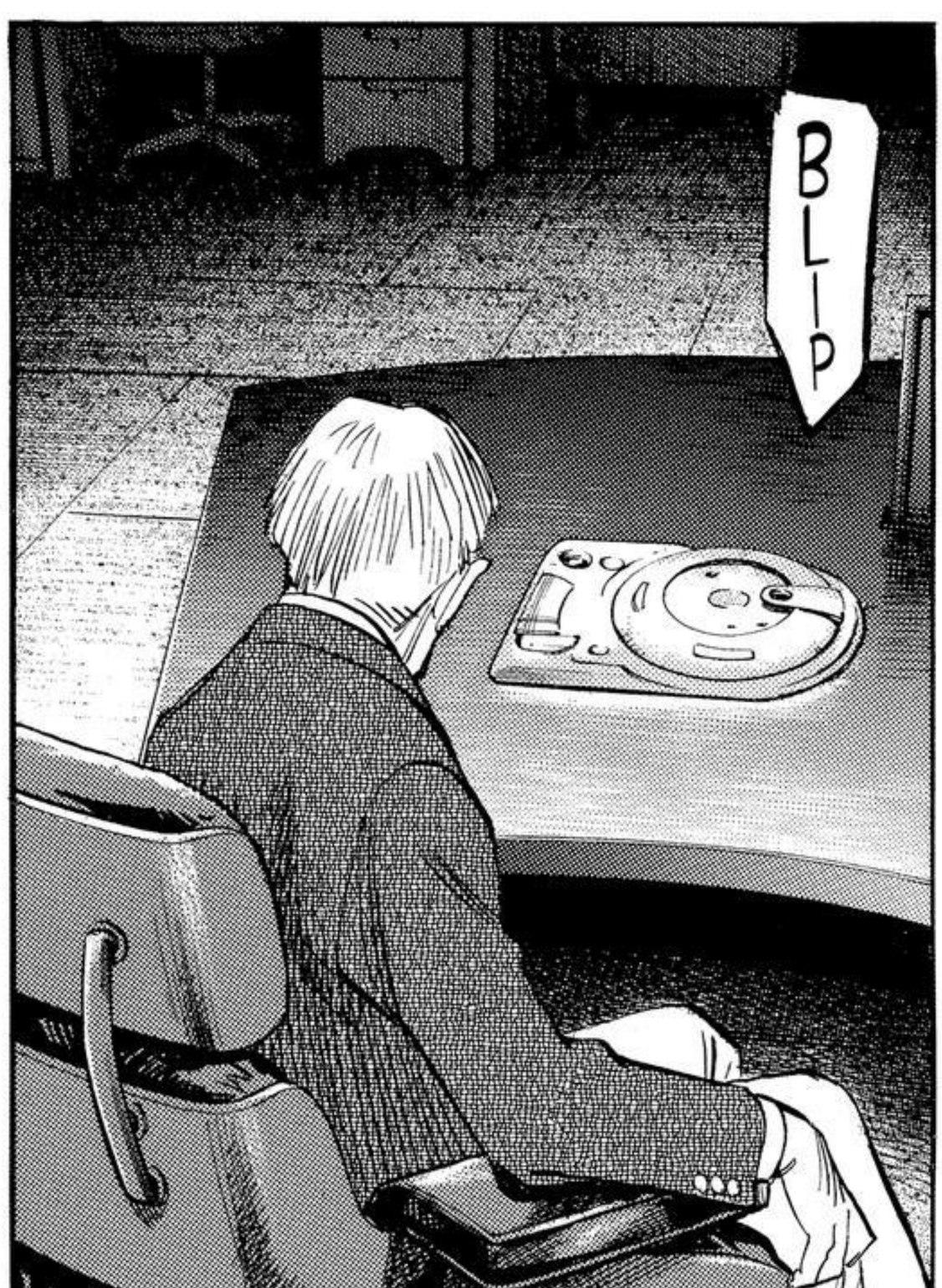

RECEIVED AT 12:13 P.M.
ZWRRI

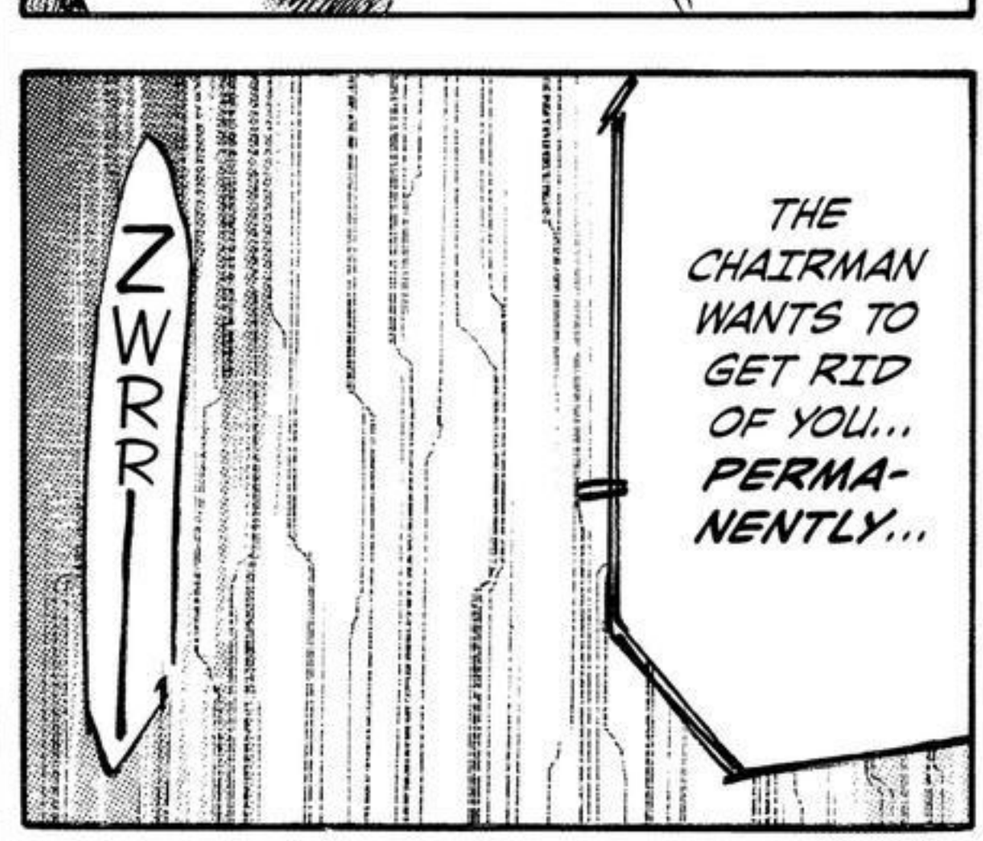
...BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST CALL...
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY WITH WORK...


ZWRR
I'VE TURNED OFF THE VIDEO FOR A REASON, ADOLF...


YOU'RE IN DANGER...
ZWRR
I MUST WARN YOU...


...HAS BECOME A LIABILITY FOR THE COUNCIL...
ZWRR
THAT "JOB" YOU WERE TRYING TO FINISH...


BLIP


ZWRR
THE CHAIRMAN WANTS TO GET RID OF YOU... PERMA-NENTLY...

...WANTS TO GET RID OF ME?

THE CHAIR-MAN...

ADOLF ...

THAT EXPLOSION THIS MORNING...

!!

RECEIVED AT 3:45 P.M.

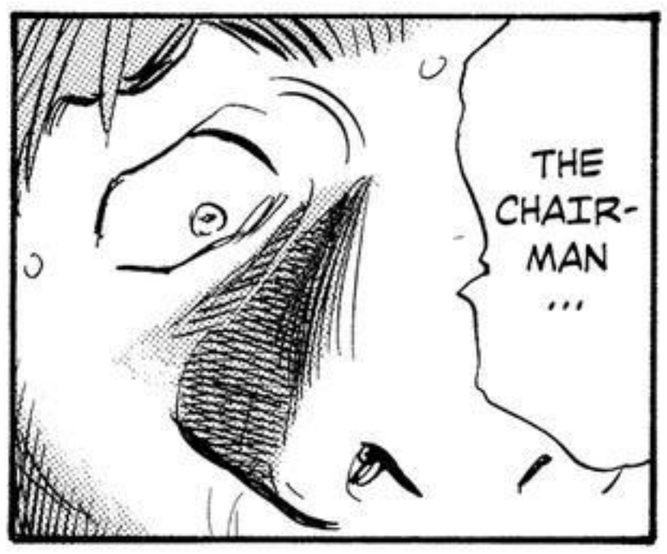
THE CHAIRMAN!

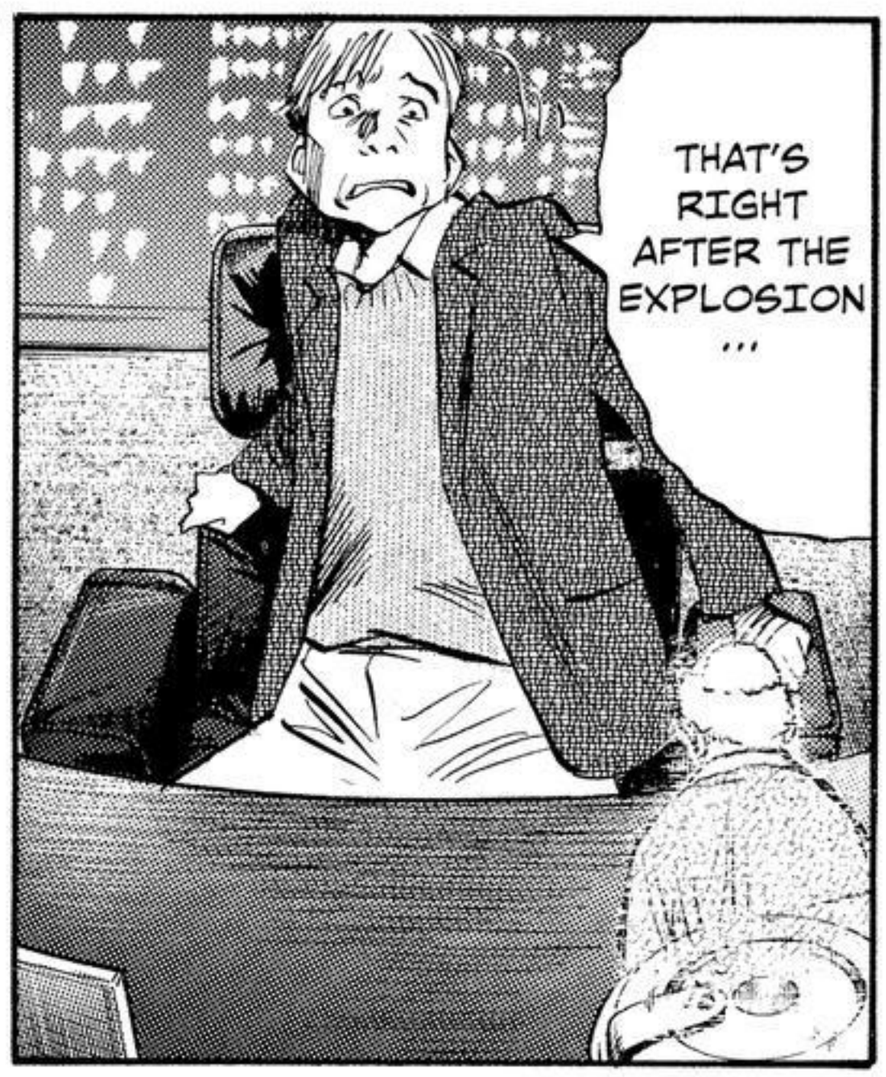
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU...

WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND THE MEETING TODAY?

CONTACT ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN...

I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU, SO I'M WORRIED...





GET AWAY ...

...TO GET OUT...

KLAK

PANT

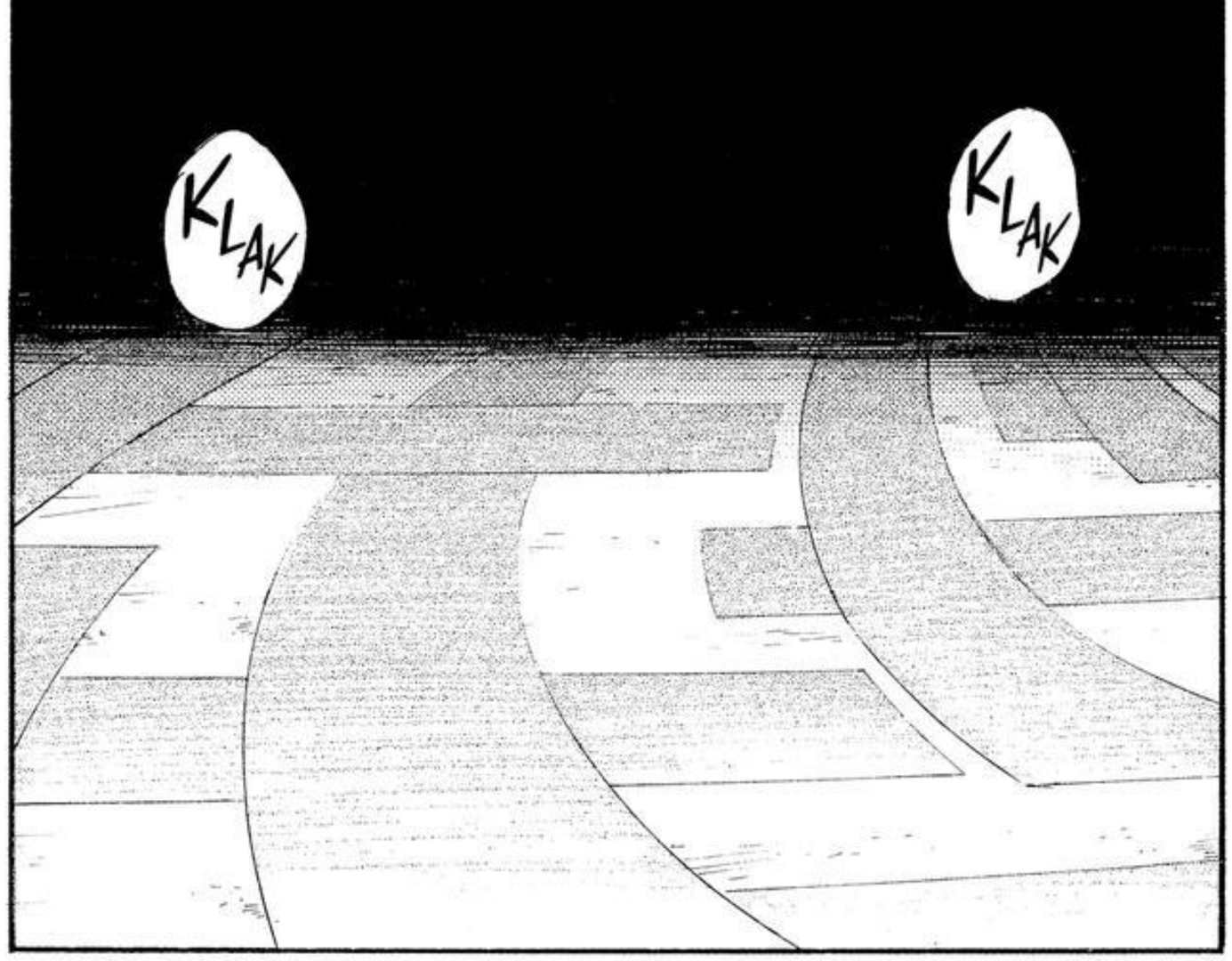
KLAK

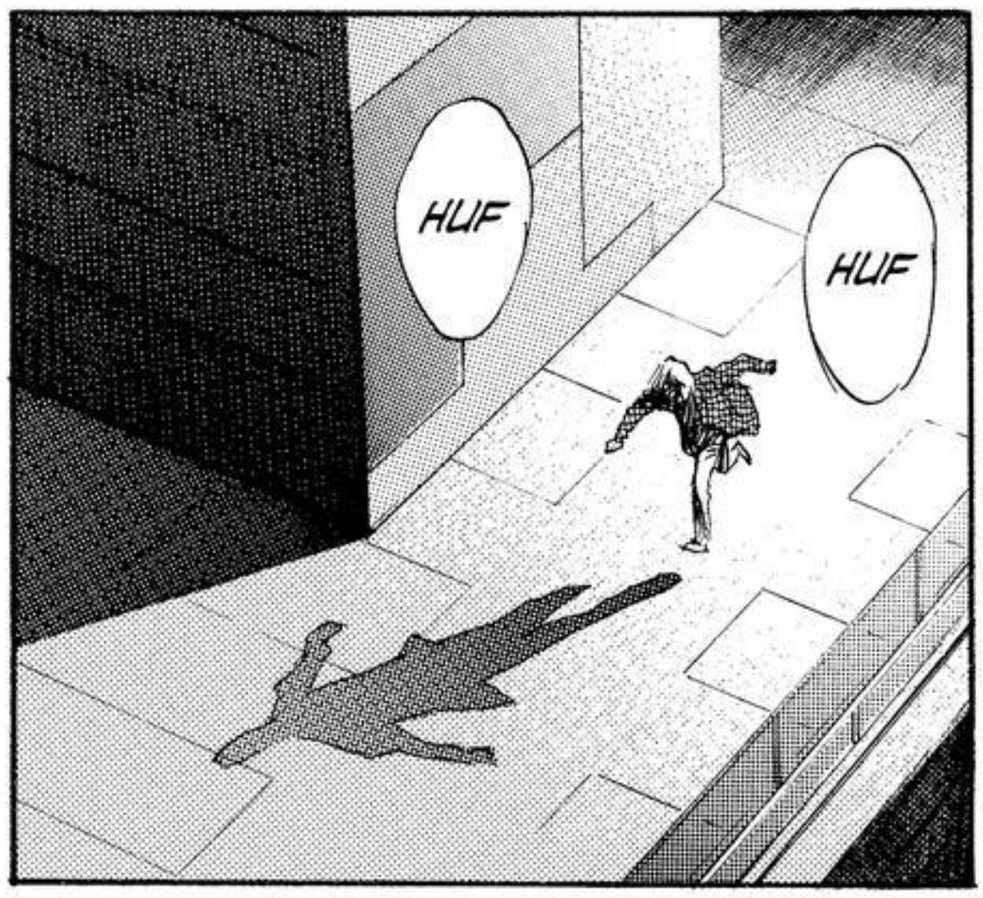
PANT

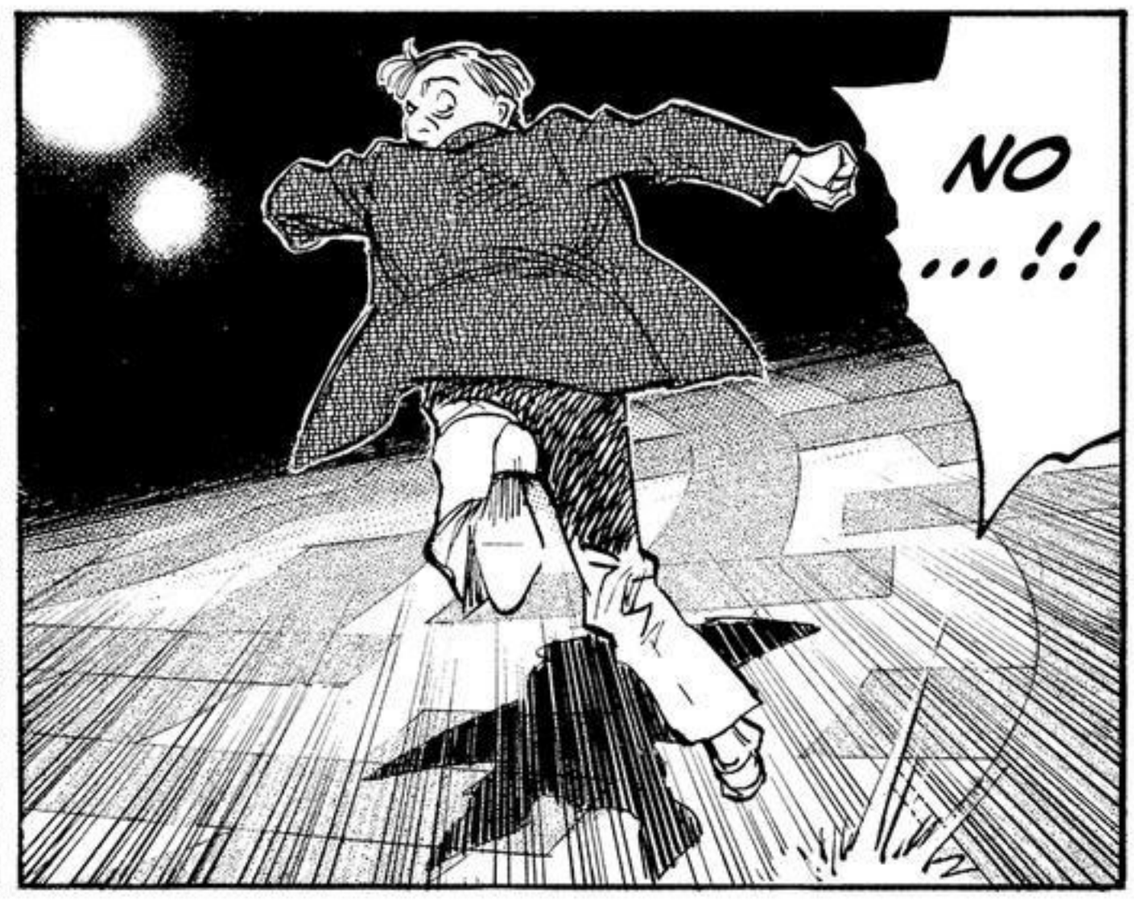
KLAK

HUF

HUF


KLAK
KLAK


HUF
HUF

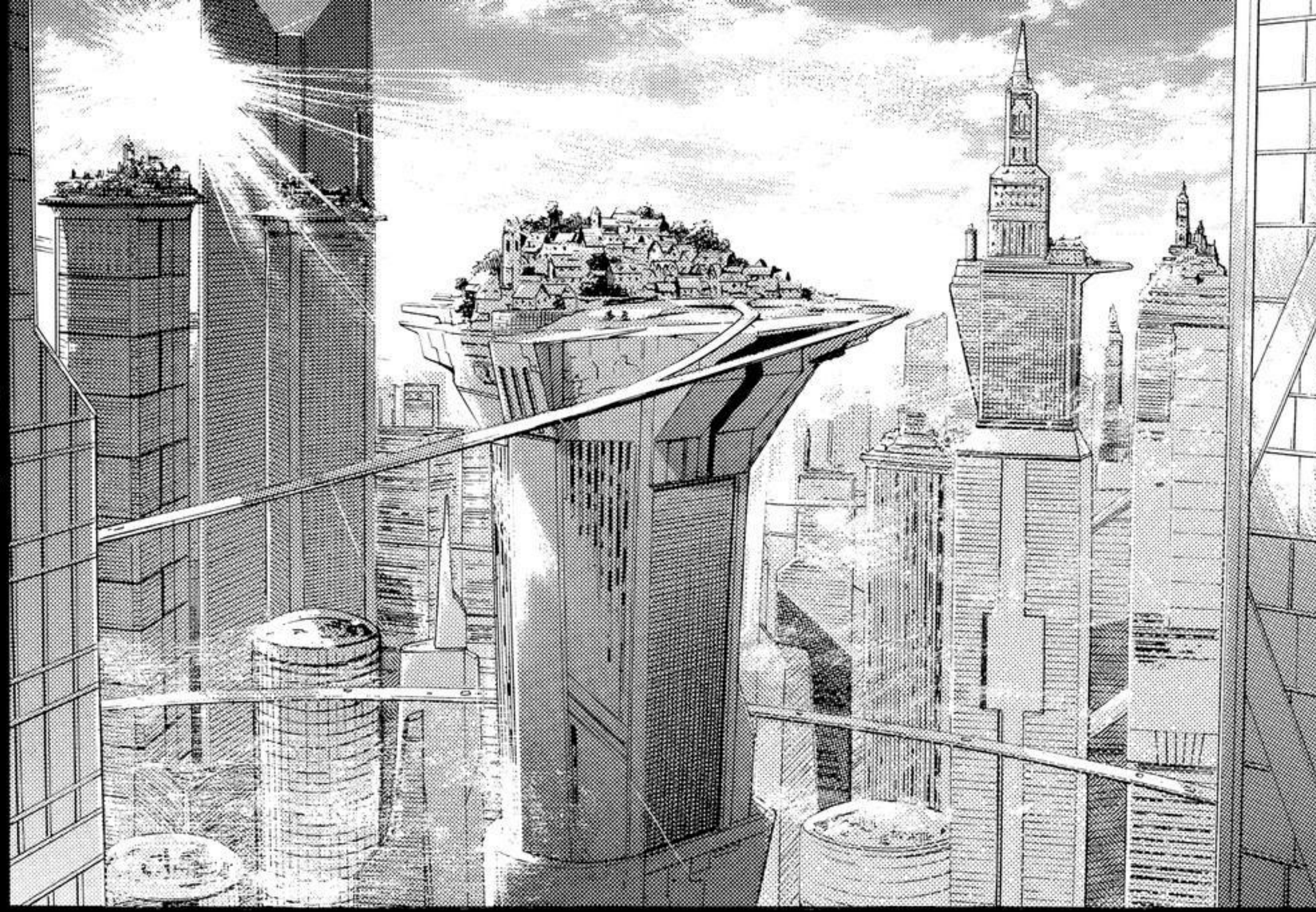

NO ...!!

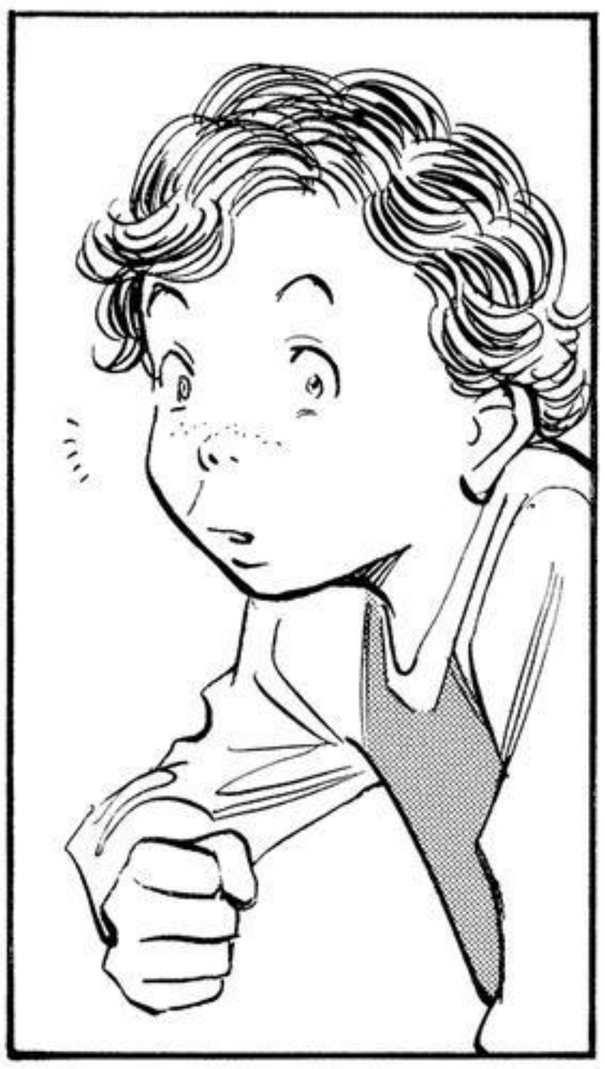
HUF
HUF
GRAB

GESICHT OF EUROPOL HERE...

I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR YOU...

Act 29 WHISPERING SHADOWS



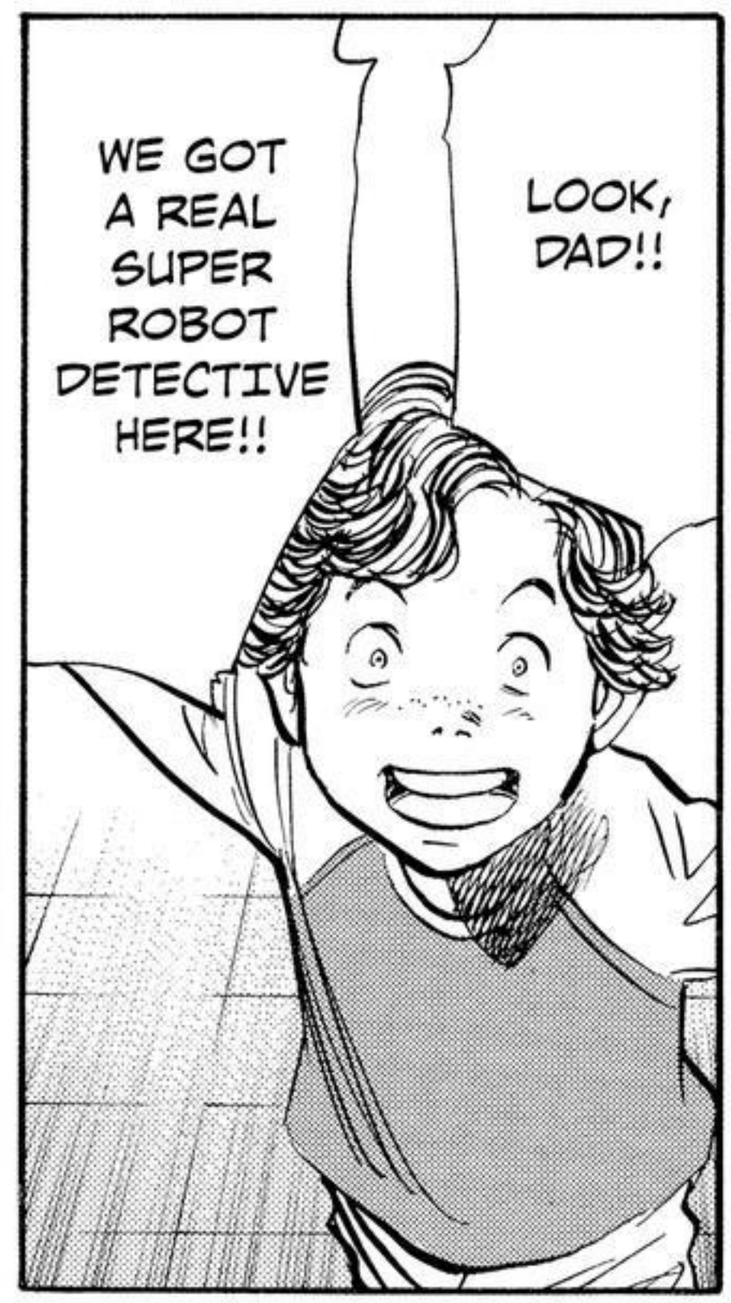


DID YOU SHOOT A ROCKET OUTTA YOUR ARM?

DID YOU GET HIM?

DAD!!

HE'S SOOO COOL!! AND HE'S MY FRIEND NOW!! HIS NAME'S GESICHT!


WE GOT A REAL SUPER ROBOT DETECTIVE HERE!!
LOOK, DAD!!

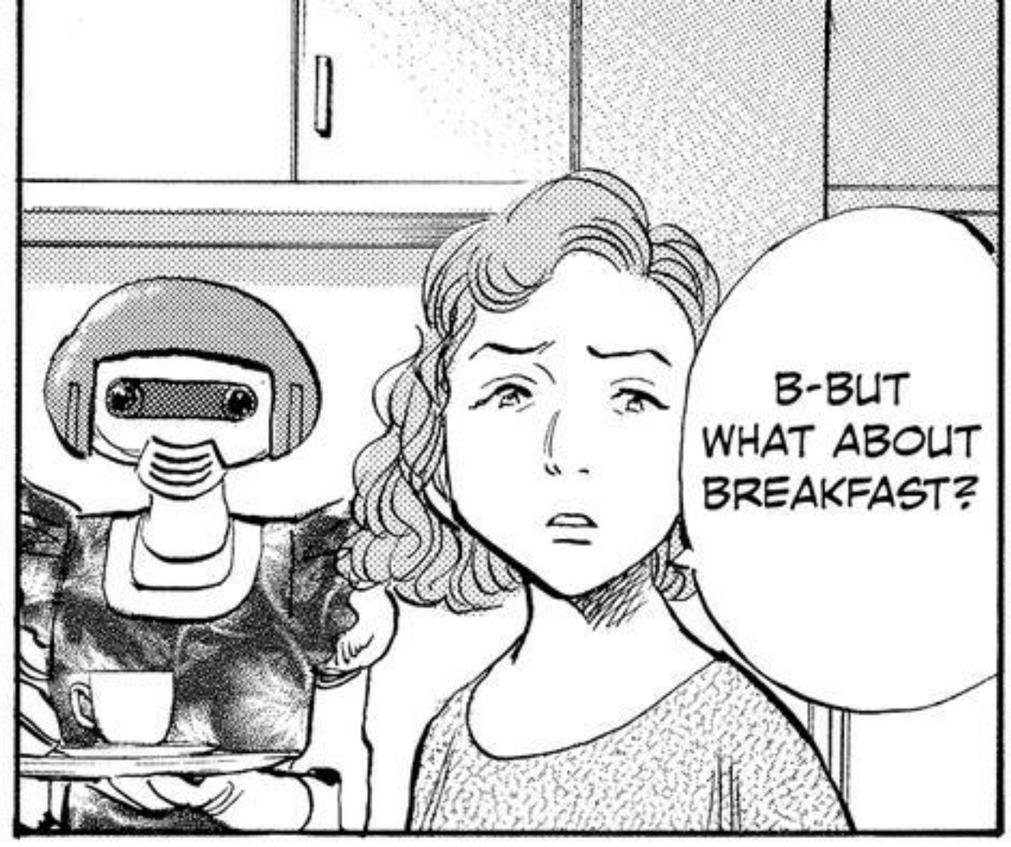
GOOD MORNING, ADOLF...

Act 29

WHISPERING SHADOWS

IT'S OKAY, MOM. DAD'S GOT GESICHT TO PROTECT HIM!

BUT YOU HAD A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE YESTERDAY... WHY DON'T YOU JUST REST AT HOME TODAY...?

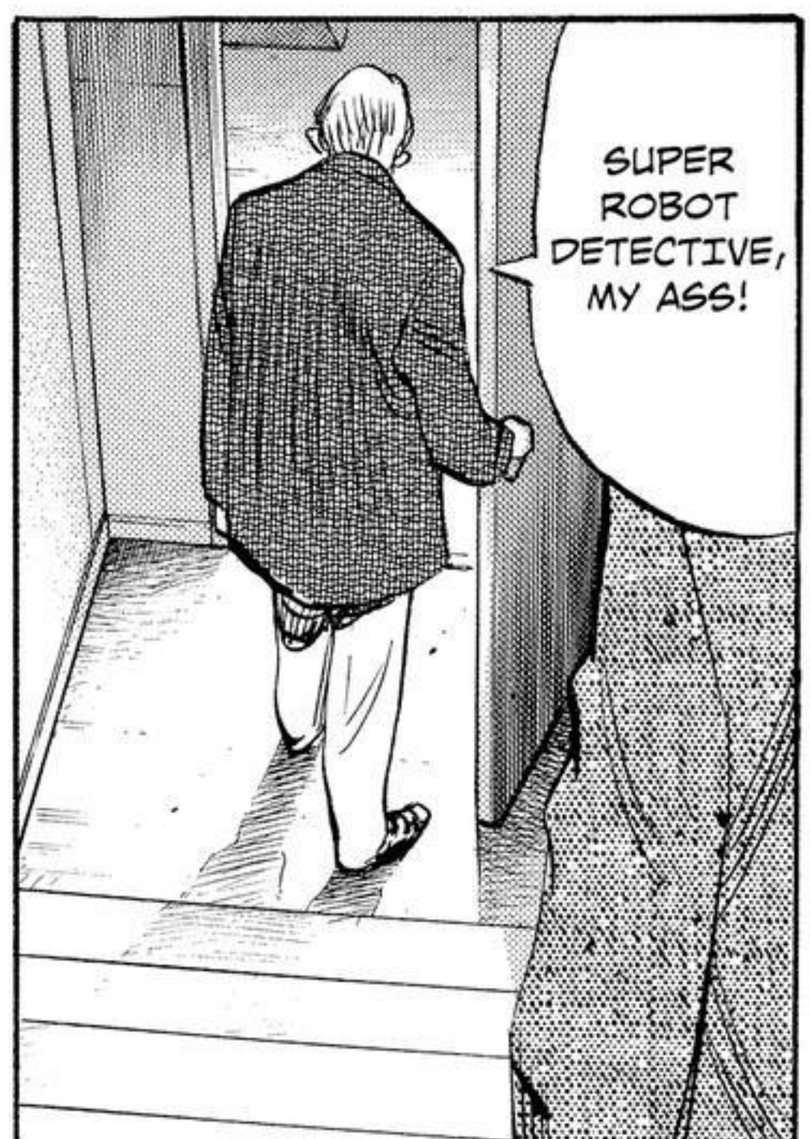

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST?

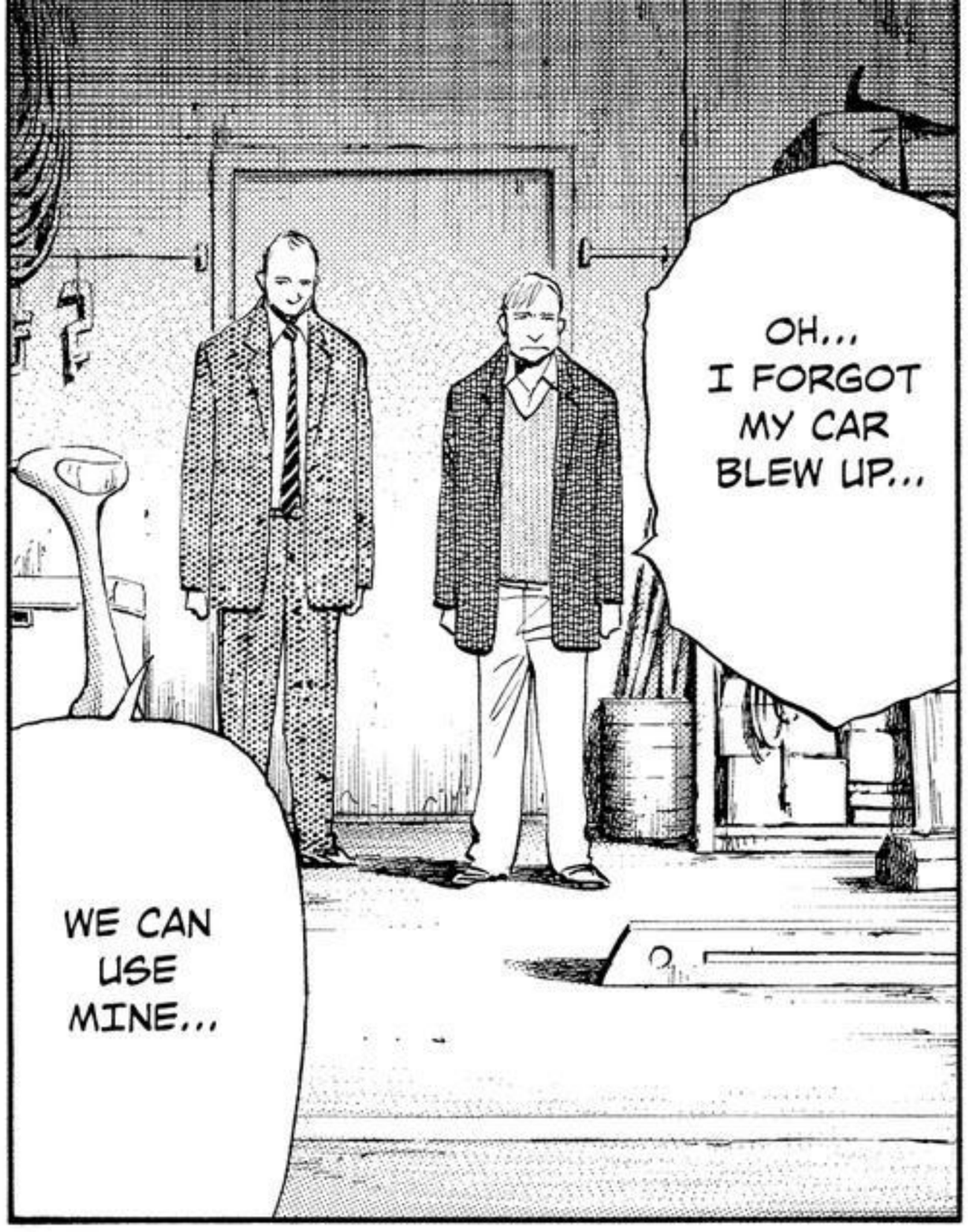
NEVER MIND BREAKFAST... WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, I'VE GOT A TON OF WORK TO TAKE CARE OF.

SEE YOU AGAIN TONIGHT, RIGHT, GEISCHT?

AS LONG AS HE HAS GESICHT WITH HIM, *NOTHING* CAN TOUCH HIM!!

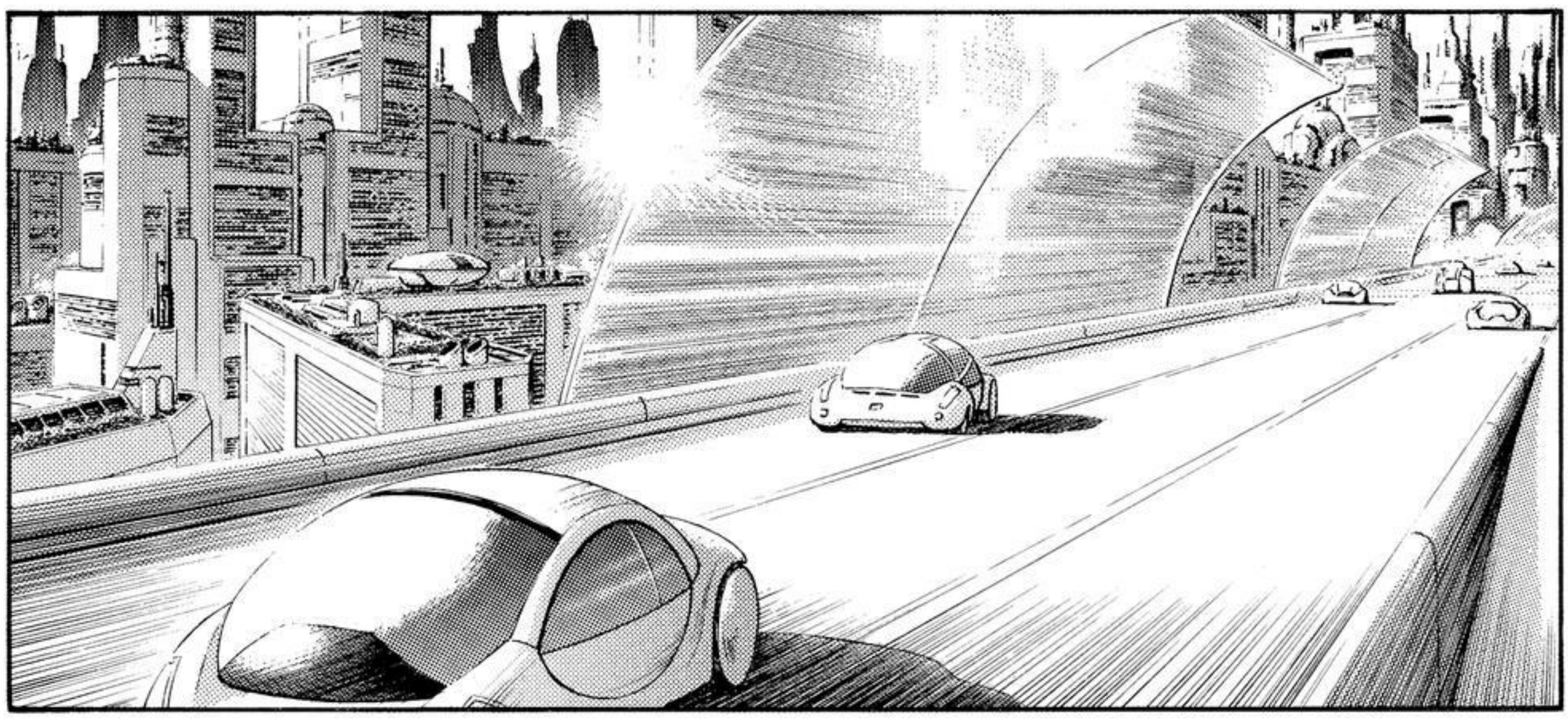
I DIDN'T INTEND TO...
QUIT FILLING MY SON'S HEAD WITH STORIES, OKAY?

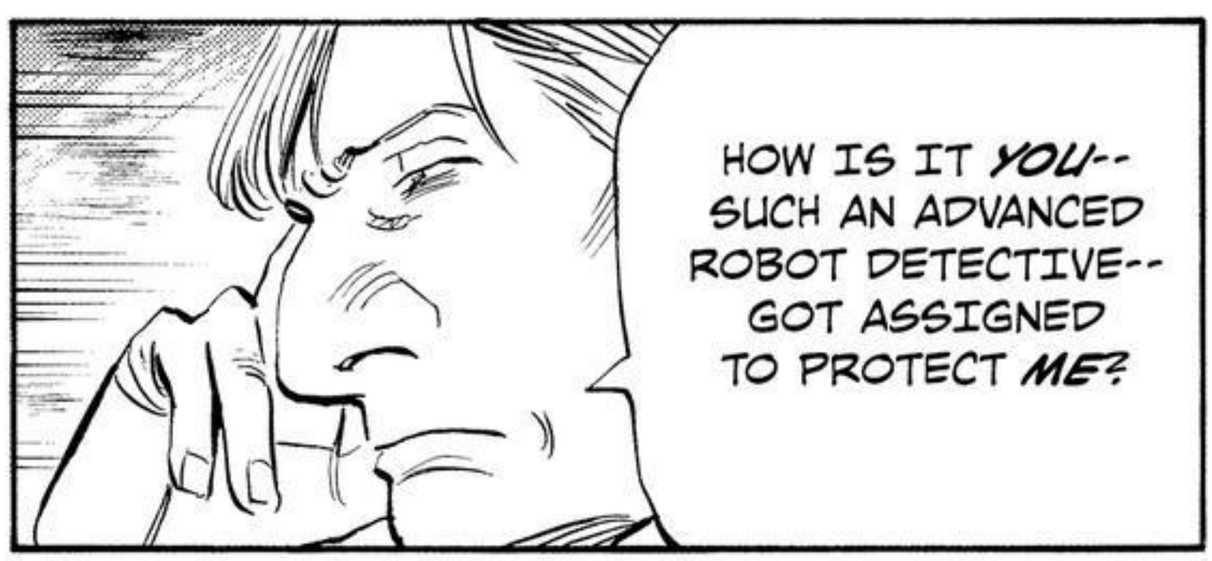

SUPER ROBOT DETECTIVE, MY ASS!


OH... I FORGOT MY CAR BLEW UP...
WE CAN USE MINE...

CHILDREN OFTEN ENGAGE IN MAKE-BELIEVE...

IS *THAT* MAKE-BELIEVE ...?
BLOWING AWAY CRIMINALS WITH ROCKETS...




HOW IS IT *YOU*-- SUCH AN ADVANCED ROBOT DETECTIVE-- GOT ASSIGNED TO PROTECT *ME*?

I'M JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, MR. HAAS...

!!

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

SO IS *THIS* WHY YOU CANCELLED YOUR VACATION?

DO YOU HATE ROBOTS?

LET ME ASK YOU, MR. HAAS ...

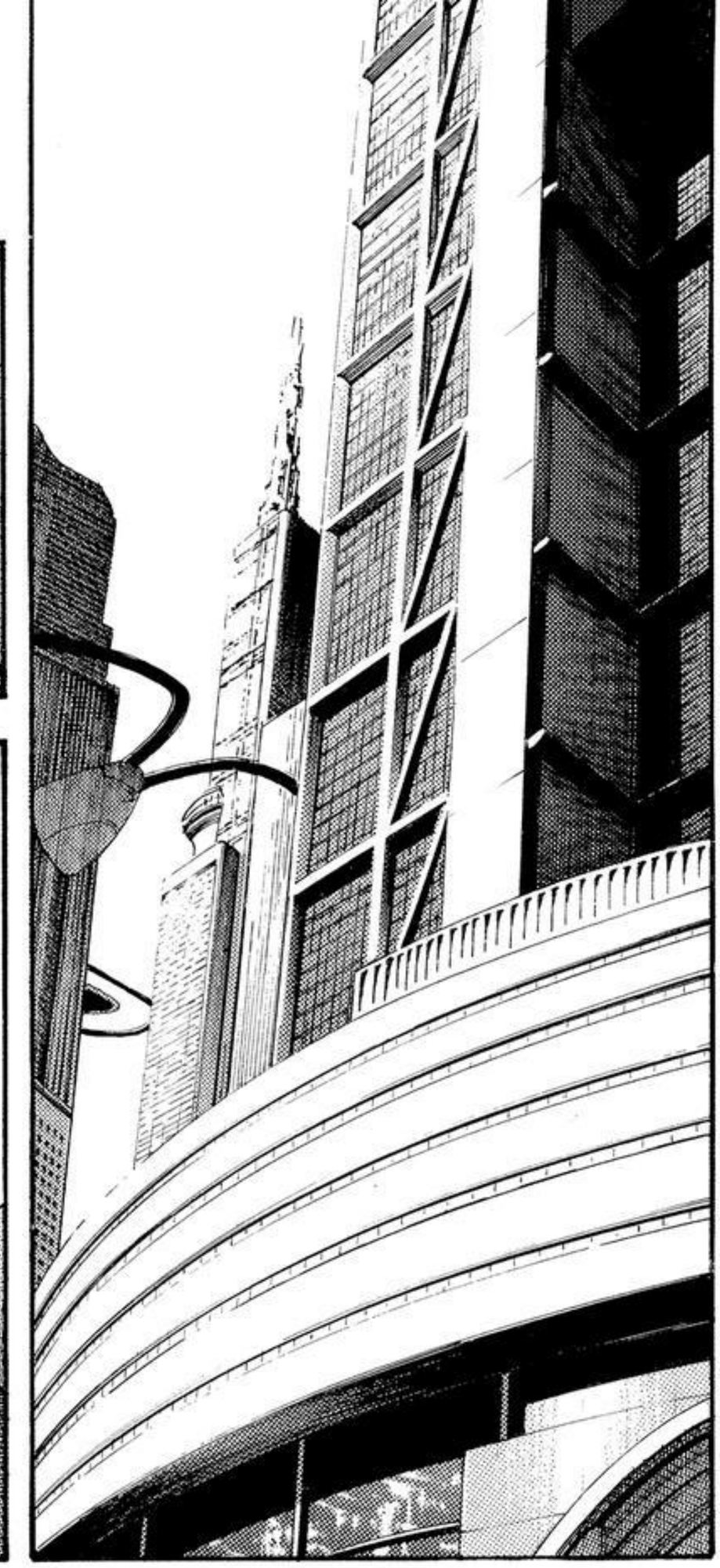
...FROM YOUR BOSS...

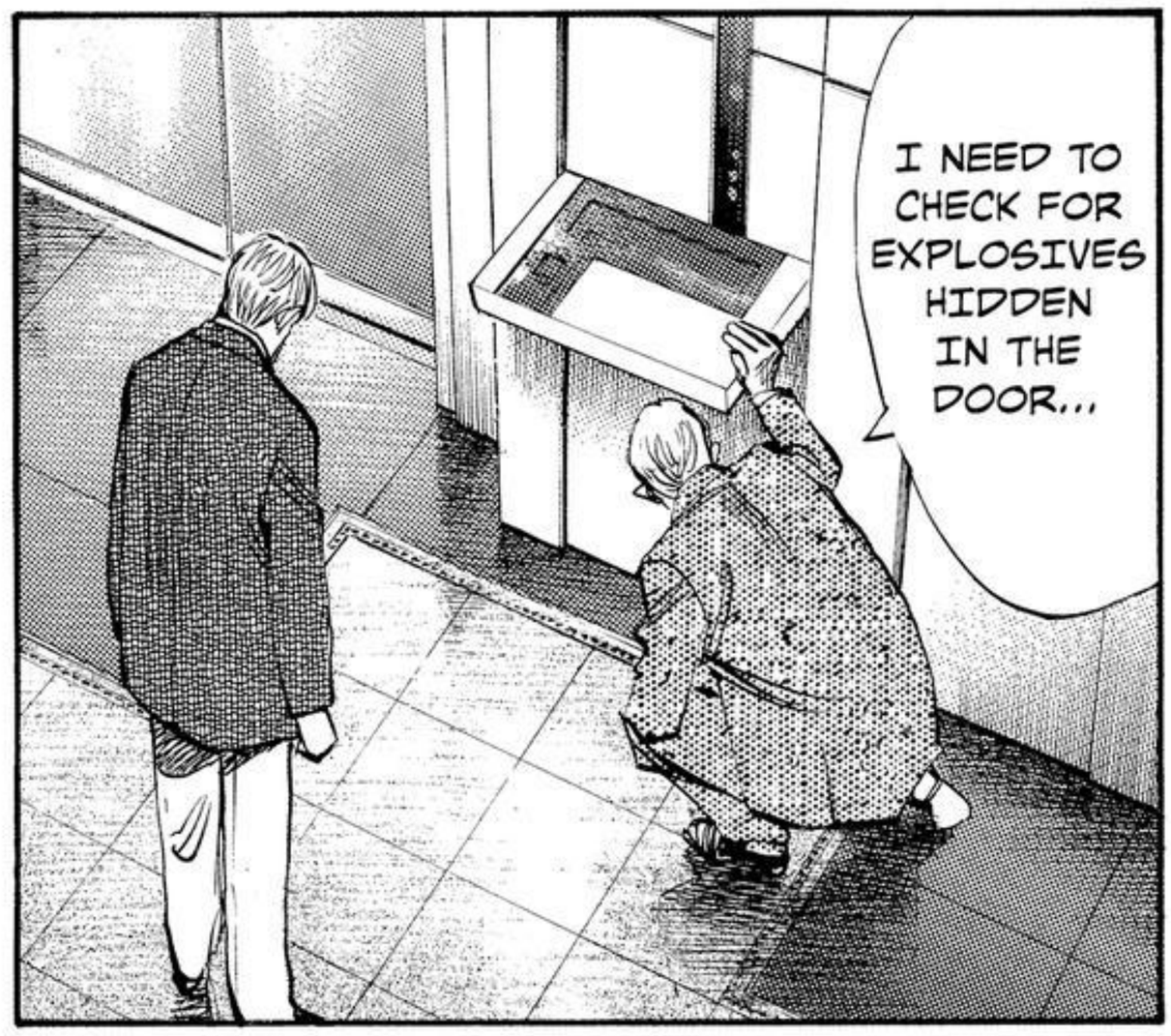
I... *UH*... HEARD ABOUT IT...

IF SO, I'M SORRY YOU WOUND UP WITH A ROBOT BODYGUARD...

BUT PLEASE DON'T FORGET, I'M ONLY CARRYING OUT ORDERS.

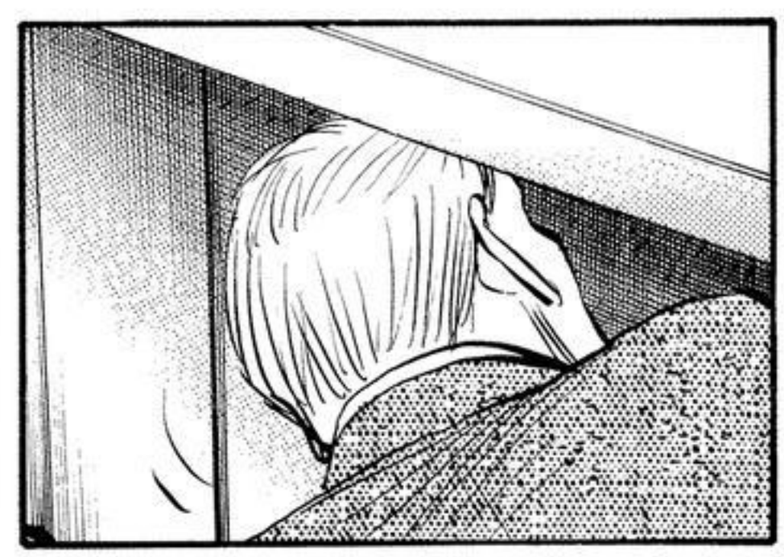
WAIT HERE...




I NEED TO CHECK FOR EXPLOSIVES HIDDEN IN THE DOOR...

IT'S OKAY... GO AHEAD AND OPEN IT.

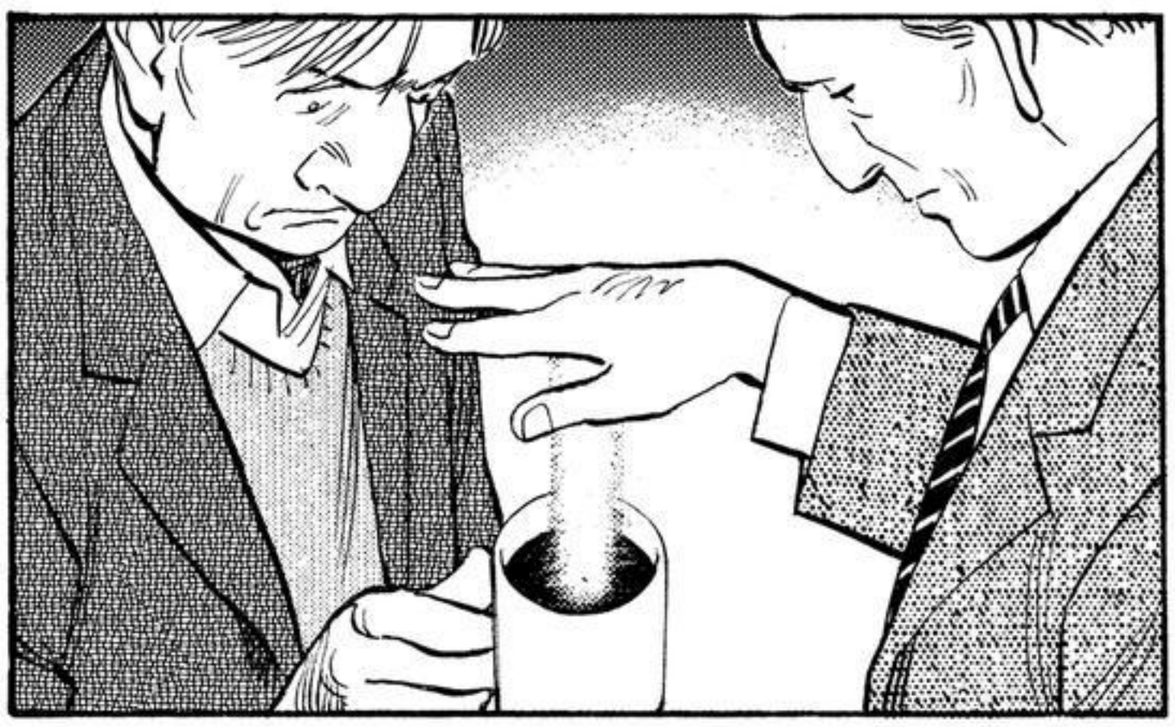
...

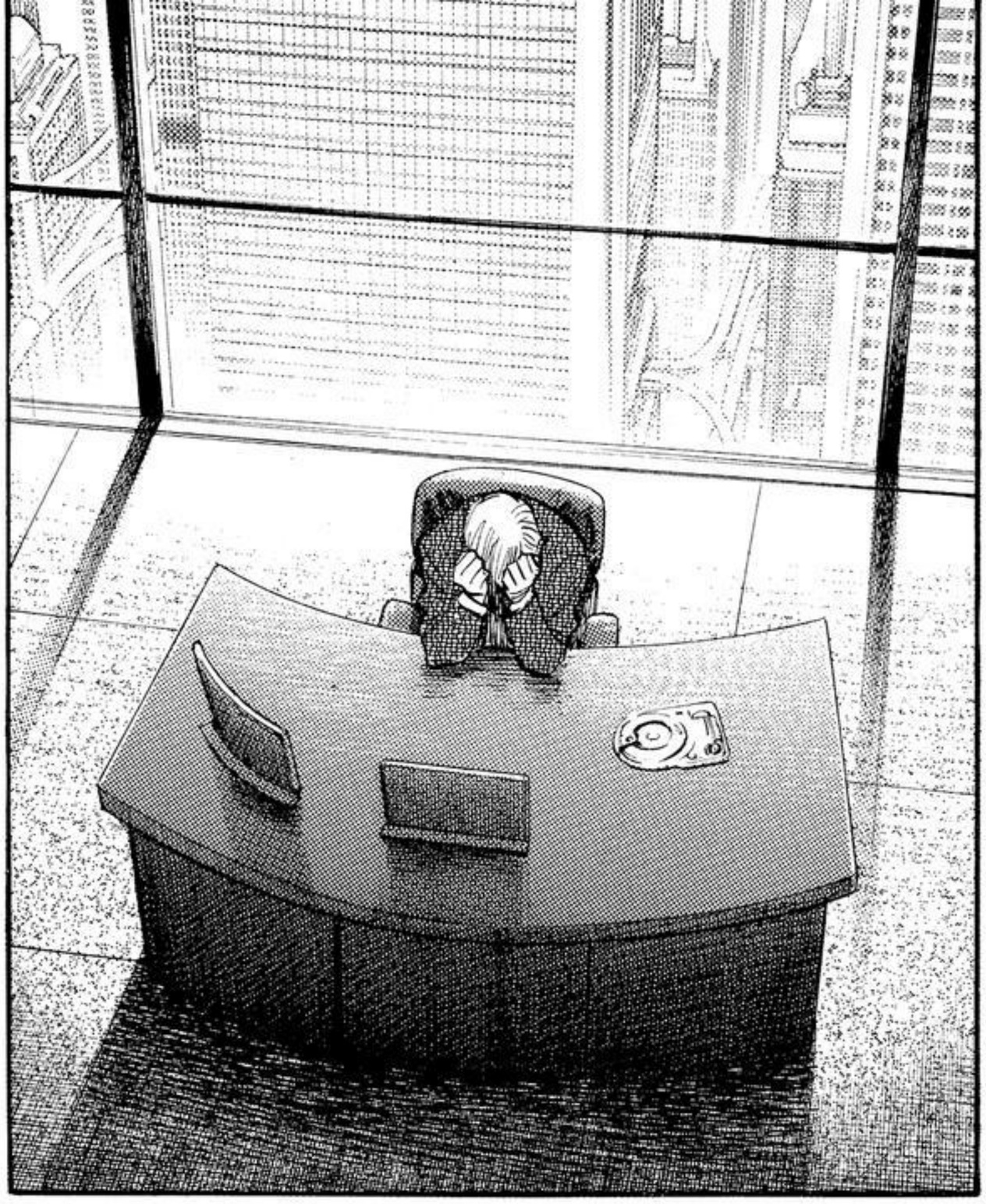


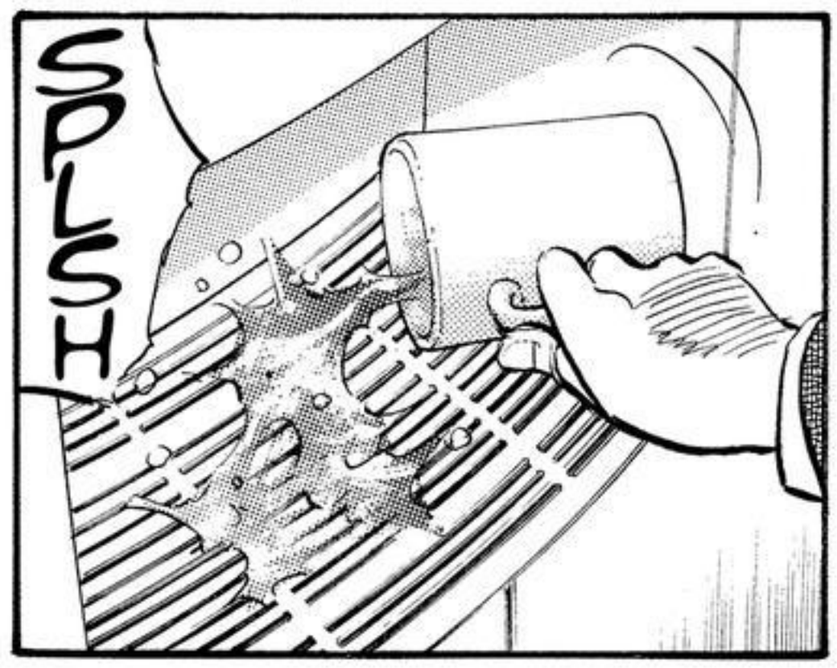
YEAH... SURE...

HOLD ON THERE...

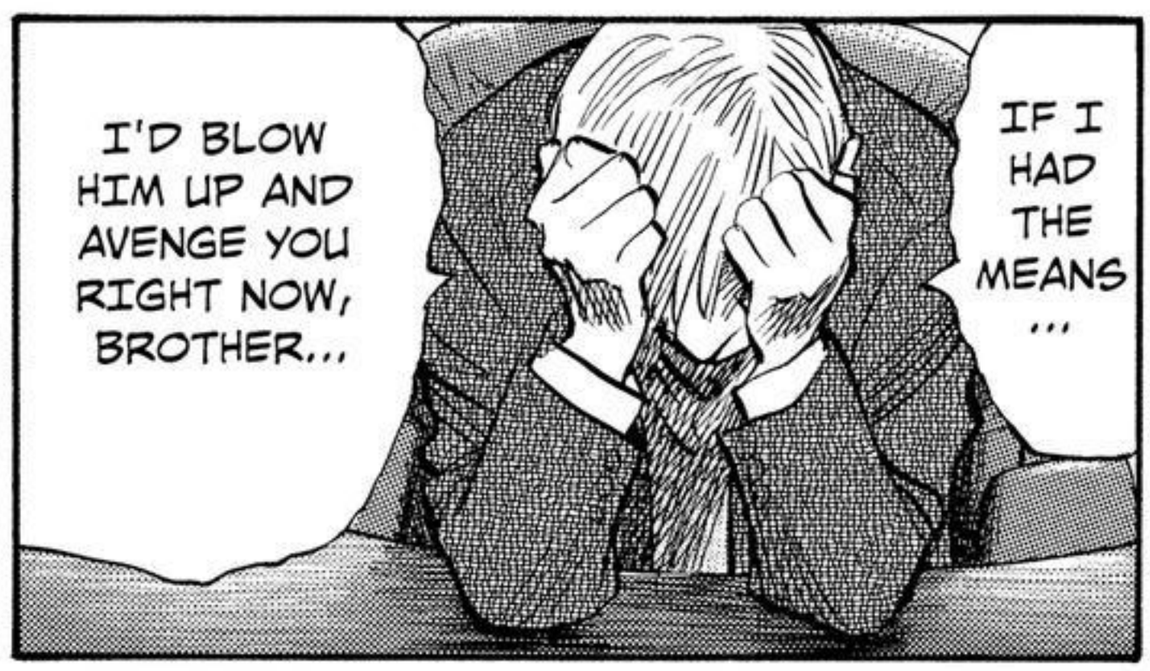
SPLISH—






SPLSH

HE'S SO CLOSE ...
HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE...


I'D BLOW HIM UP AND AVENGE YOU RIGHT NOW, BROTHER...
IF I HAD THE MEANS ...

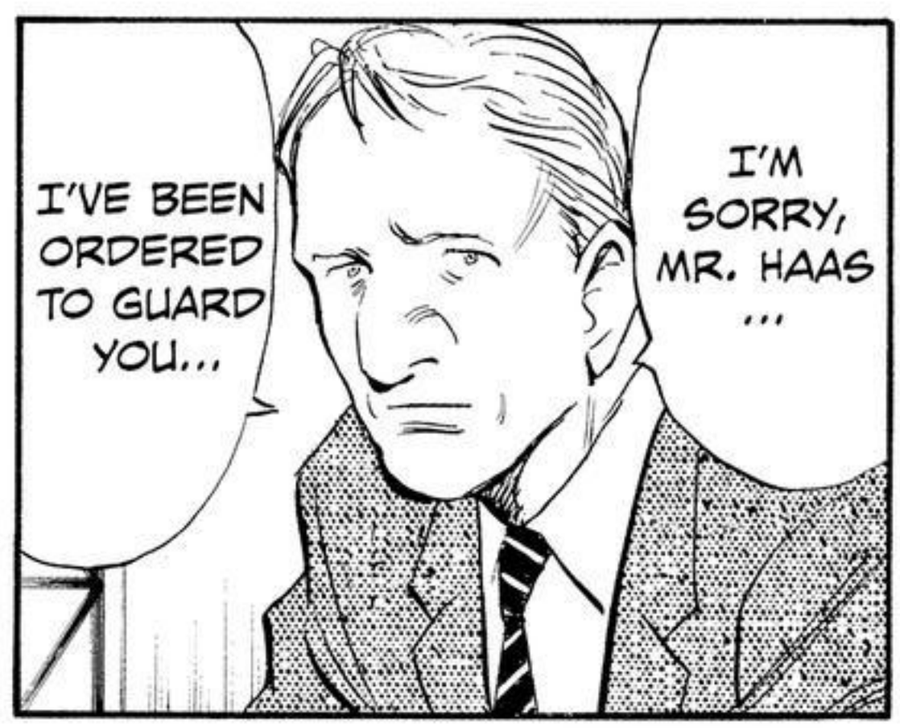
DAMN IT!
BAM

I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT WITH YOU HERE.
CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE?

SOME-THING WRONG?

WE'RE TRYING TO PROTECT ...

JUST WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?


I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO GUARD YOU...
I'M SORRY, MR. HAAS ...

PLEASE, MR. HAAS ...

YOU SAY YOU'RE PROTECTING ME, BUT WHAT YOU'RE REALLY TRYING TO DO IS GET INFORMATION ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
LIAR!!

LOOK, I KNOW THAT ALL YOU COPS THINK I'M A *SUSPECT*!!

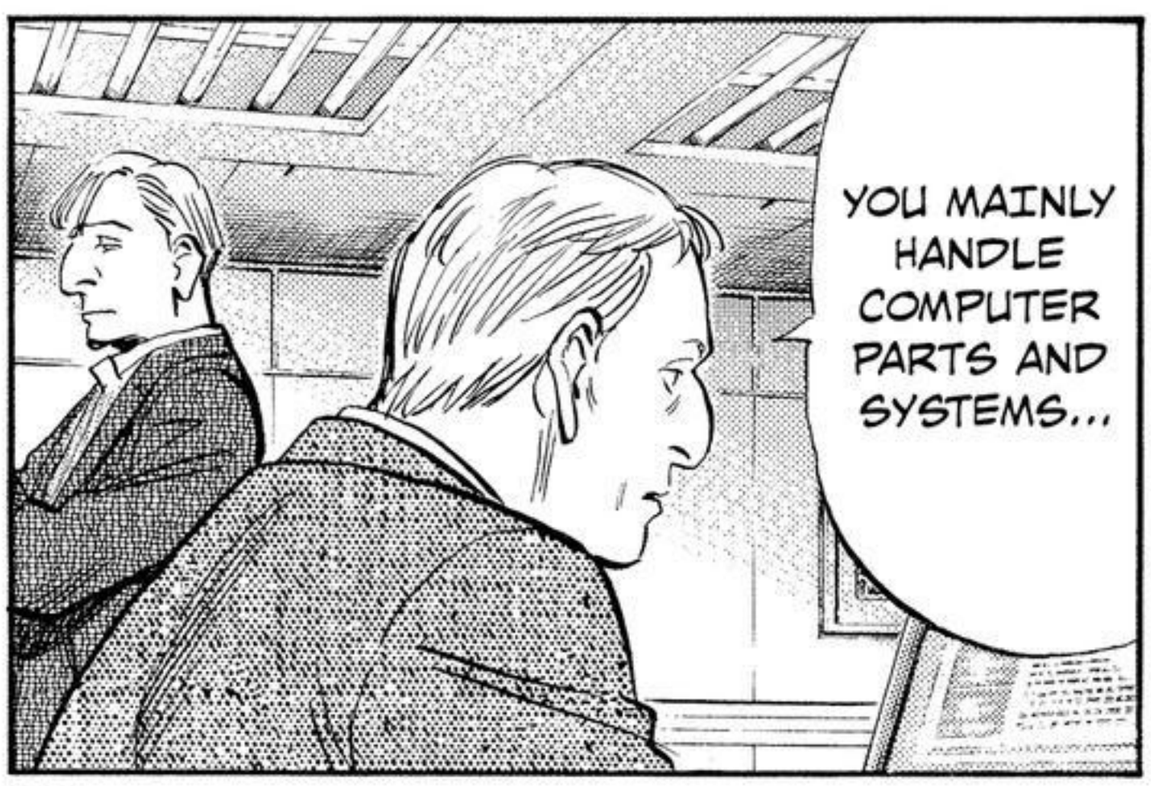
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND?

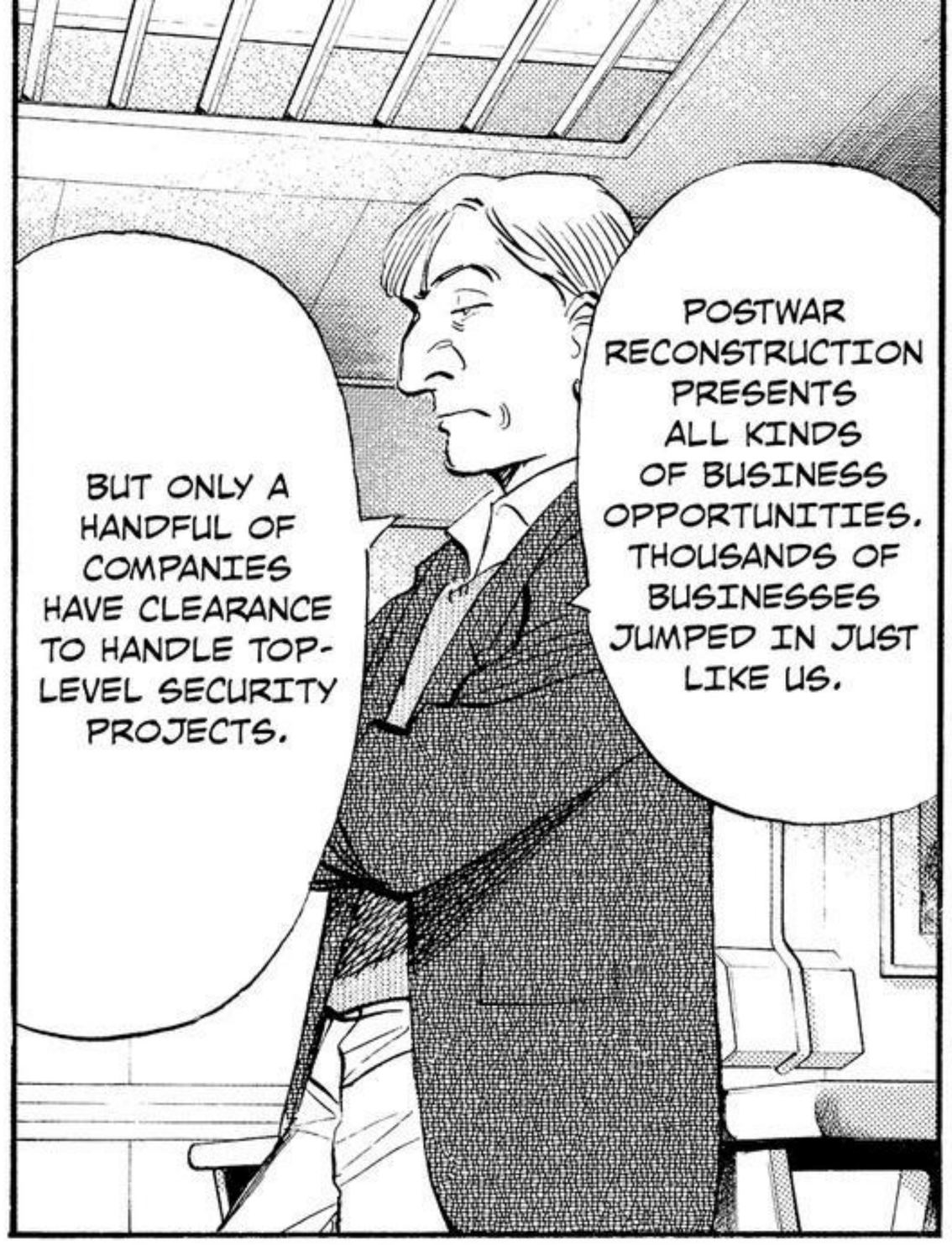
I KNOW YOU THINK ANYONE WHOSE CAR GETS BLOWN UP *HAS* TO BE INVOLVED IN SOME SHADY BUSINESS!!
SO JUST GO AHEAD AND DO YOUR INVESTIGATION! SEARCH ALL YOU WANT!!

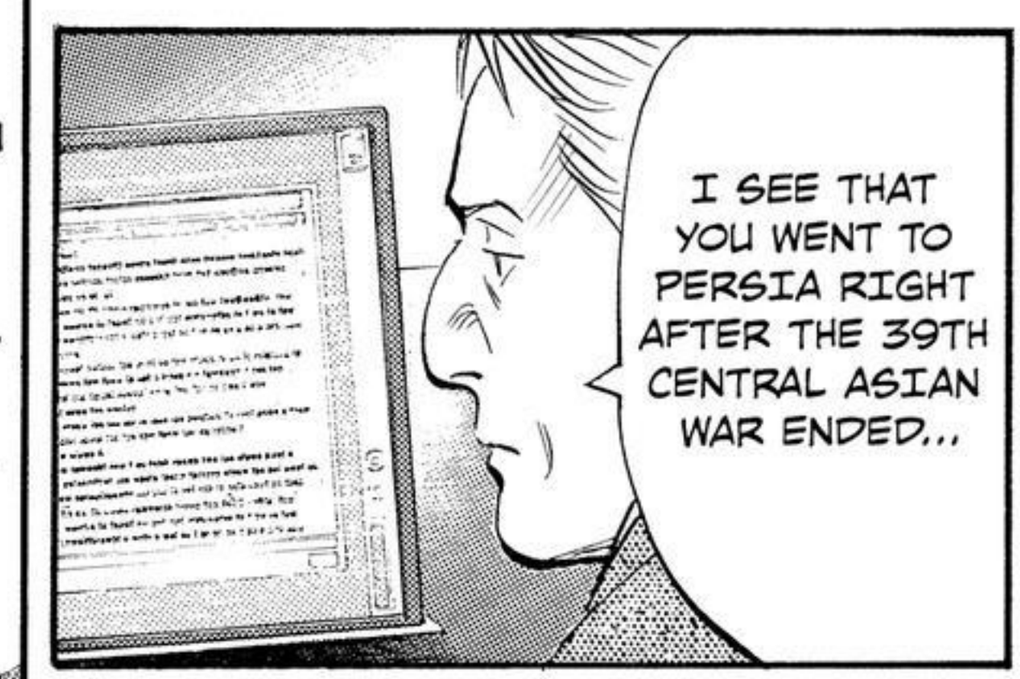
DO YOUR INVESTIGATING AND THEN *GET OUT*!
BE MY GUEST...

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

YOU'RE IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, RIGHT? WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU DEAL IN?


YOU MAINLY HANDLE COMPUTER PARTS AND SYSTEMS...


BUT ONLY A HANDFUL OF COMPANIES HAVE CLEARANCE TO HANDLE TOP-LEVEL SECURITY PROJECTS.
POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION PRESENTS ALL KINDS OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. THOUSANDS OF BUSINESSES JUMPED IN JUST LIKE US.


I SEE THAT YOU WENT TO PERSIA RIGHT AFTER THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR ENDED...

YEAH. SO WHAT?

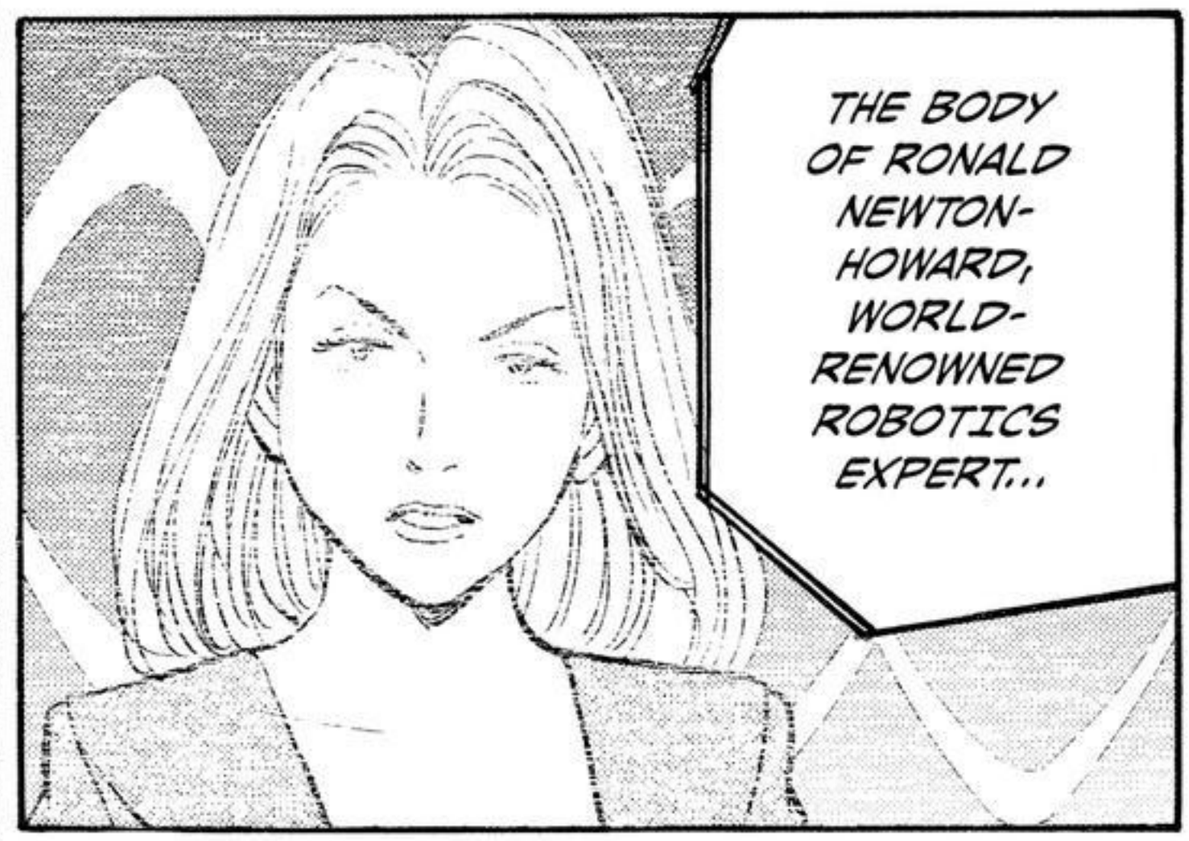
...

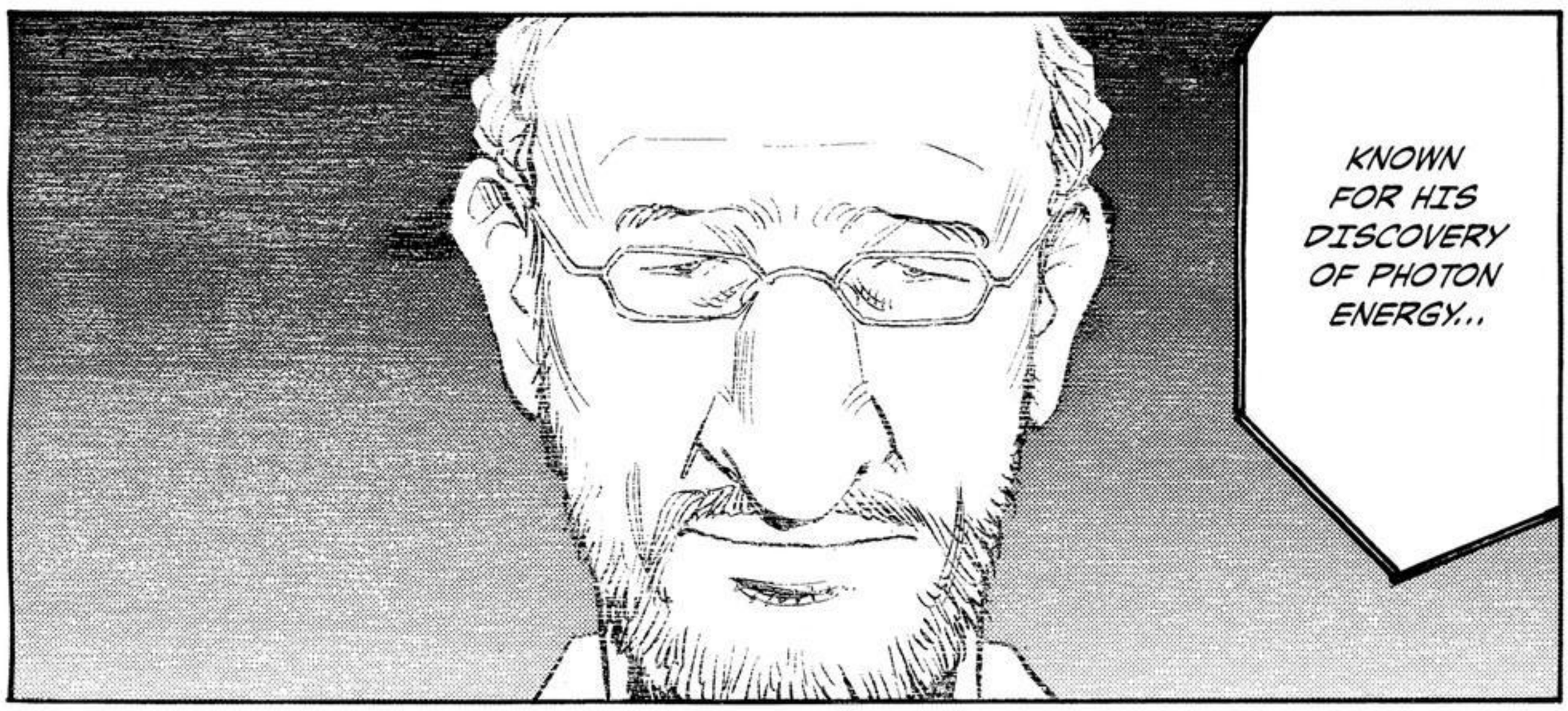
WE'VE GOT A PROVEN TRACK RECORD.
WE'RE *TRUSTED*, SEE...?

AND NOW, THE NEWS...

HMPH...
TV, ON!

...WAS FOUND AT DAWN ON THE FIFTH IN A SUBURB OF CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA...

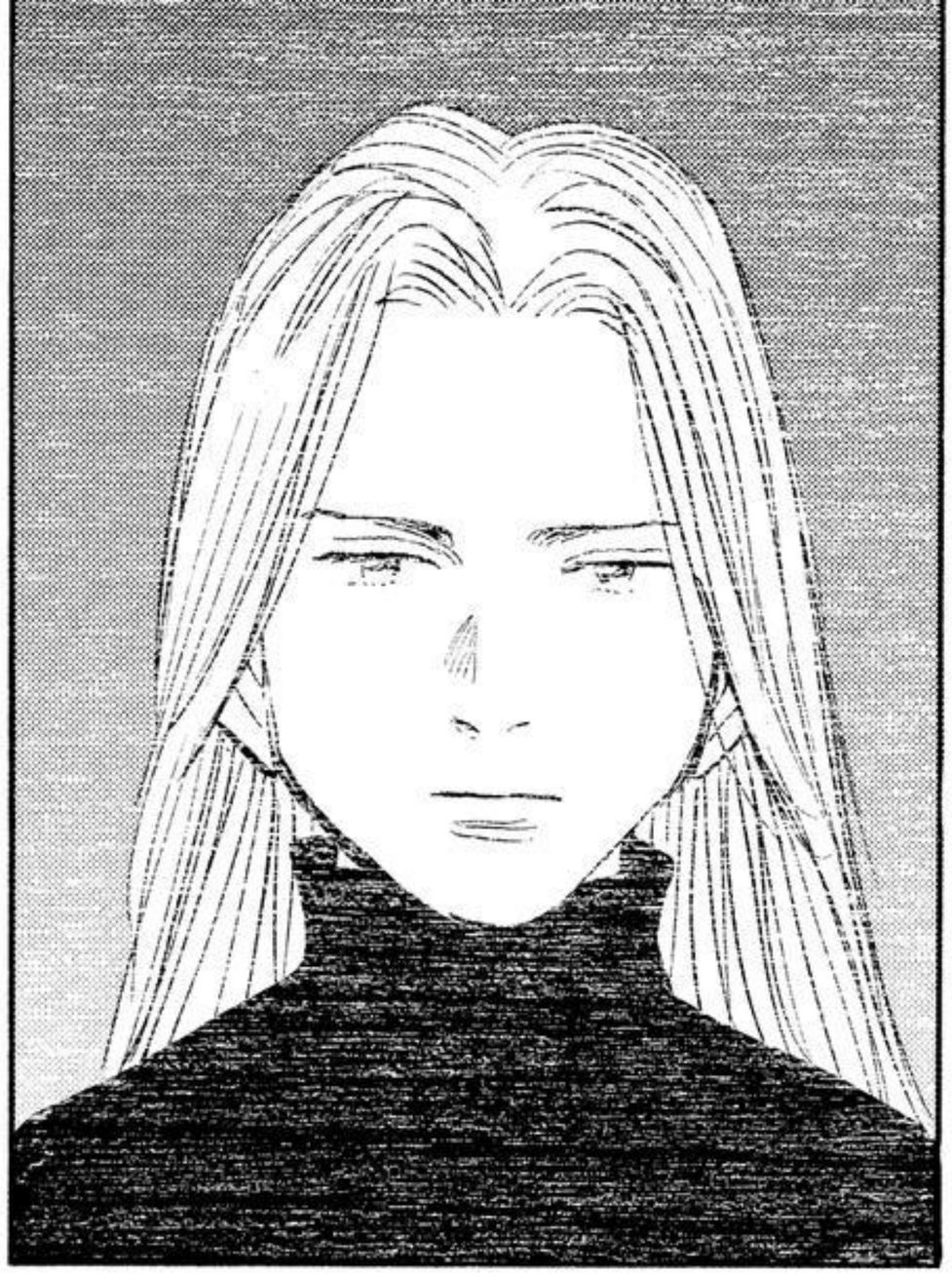

THE BODY OF RONALD NEWTON-HOWARD, WORLD-RENOWNED ROBOTICS EXPERT...

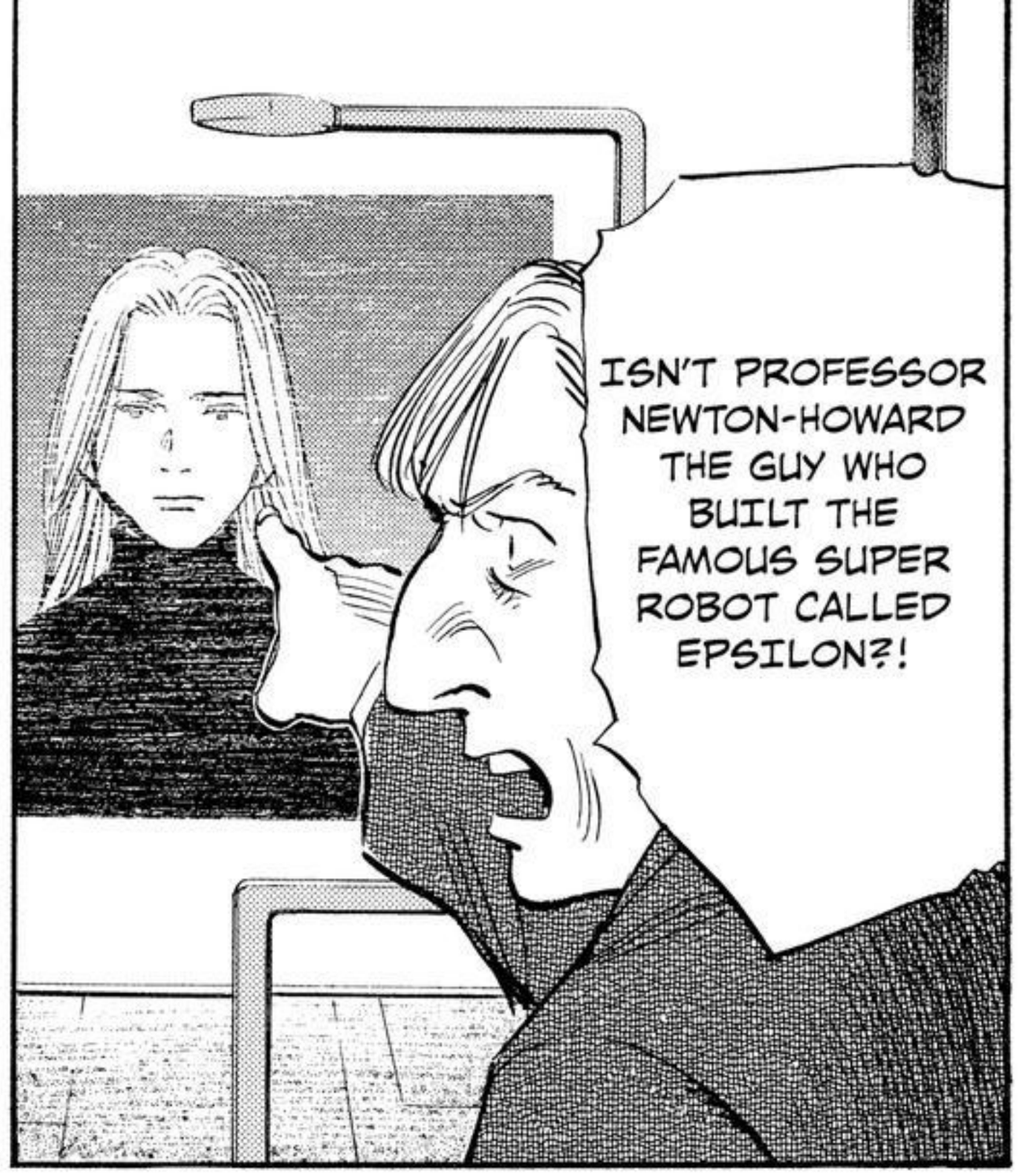

KNOWN FOR HIS DISCOVERY OF PHOTON ENERGY...

HIS BODY APPEARED TO HAVE HORN-LIKE OBJECTS PLACED...
THIS IS BIG NEWS.

LISTEN! THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT *HORNS*!
I JUST GOT A REPORT ON THIS EARLIER MYSELF...

HEY!!

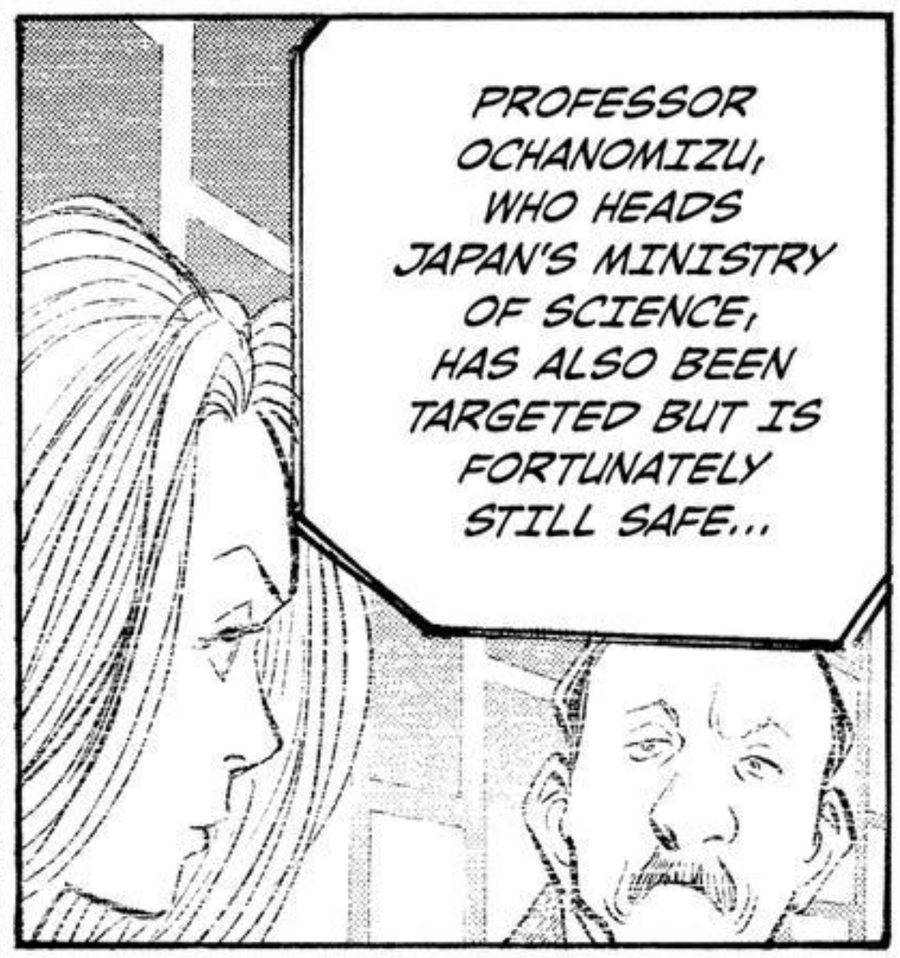


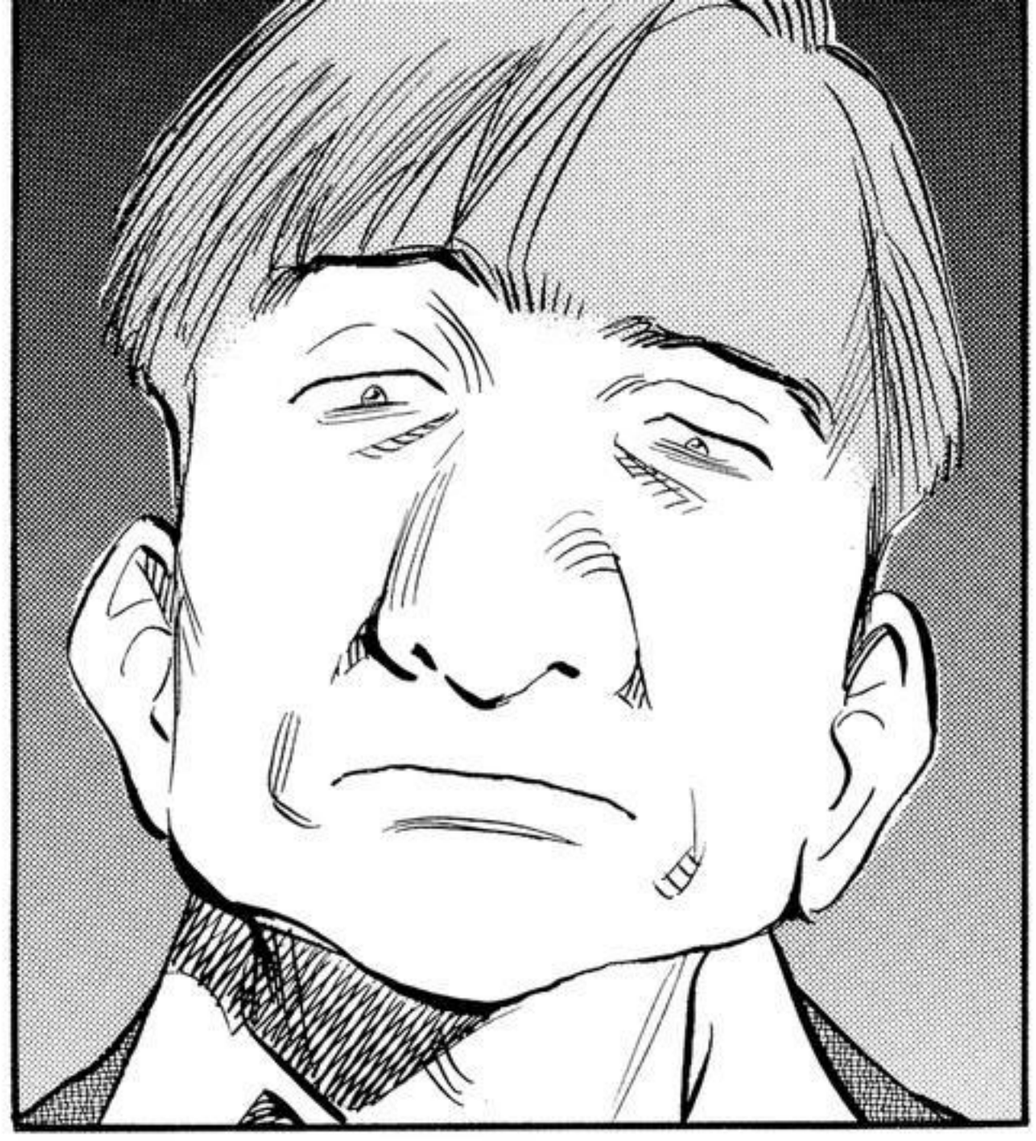

ISN'T PROFESSOR NEWTON-HOWARD THE GUY WHO BUILT THE FAMOUS SUPER ROBOT CALLED EPSILON?!

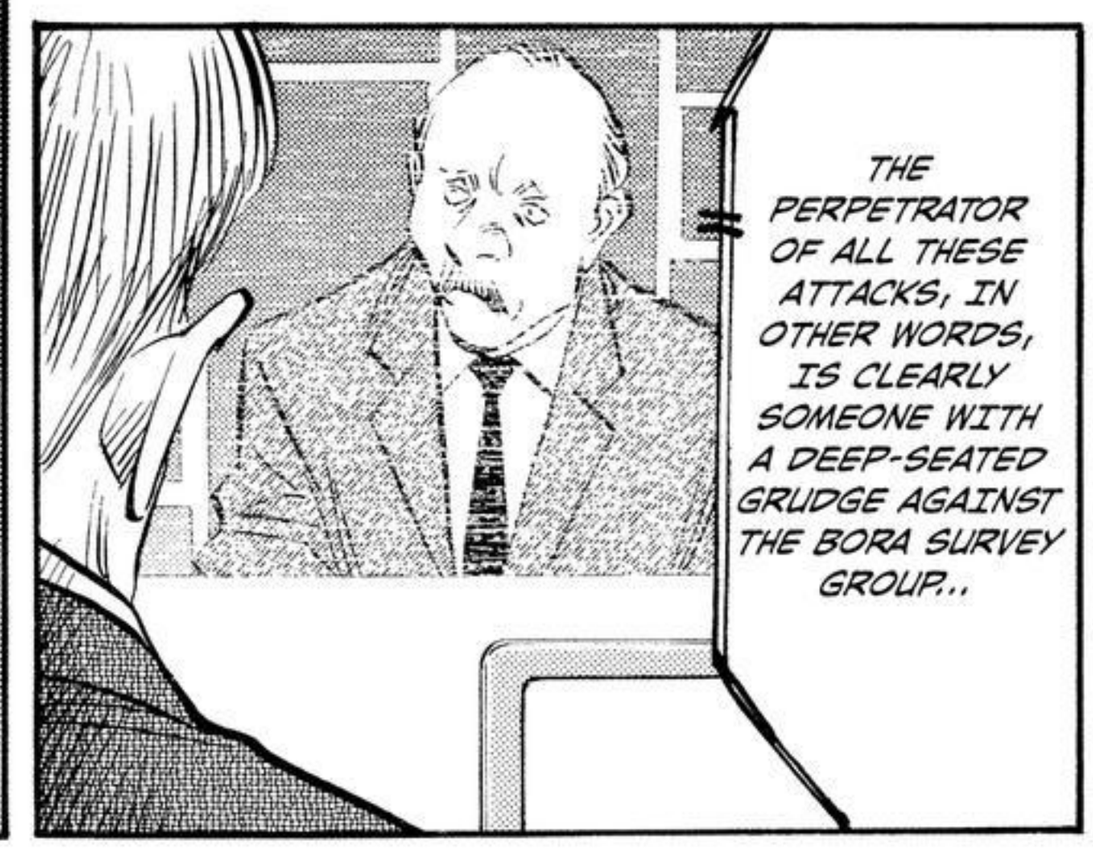
...OTHER SCIENTISTS HAVE MET THE SAME AWFUL FATE. NAMELY, BERNARD LANKE, AND JUNICHIRO TASAKI...
WE CAN NOW SAY, WITHOUT SPECULATION, THAT...

MR. SCHULTZ, AN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST, IS HERE WITH US TO TALK ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

...IS THE FACT THAT THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP DURING THE 39TH CENTRAL ASIAN WAR...
WHAT ALL THESE MEN HAVE IN COMMON...


PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, WHO HEADS JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, HAS ALSO BEEN TARGETED BUT IS FORTUNATELY STILL SAFE...




THE PERPETRATOR OF ALL THESE ATTACKS, IN OTHER WORDS, IS CLEARLY SOMEONE WITH A DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE AGAINST THE BORA SURVEY GROUP...

THE GUY WHO BUILT ONE OF YOUR ROBOT BUDDIES HAS BEEN *KILLED*, YOU KNOW...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO?

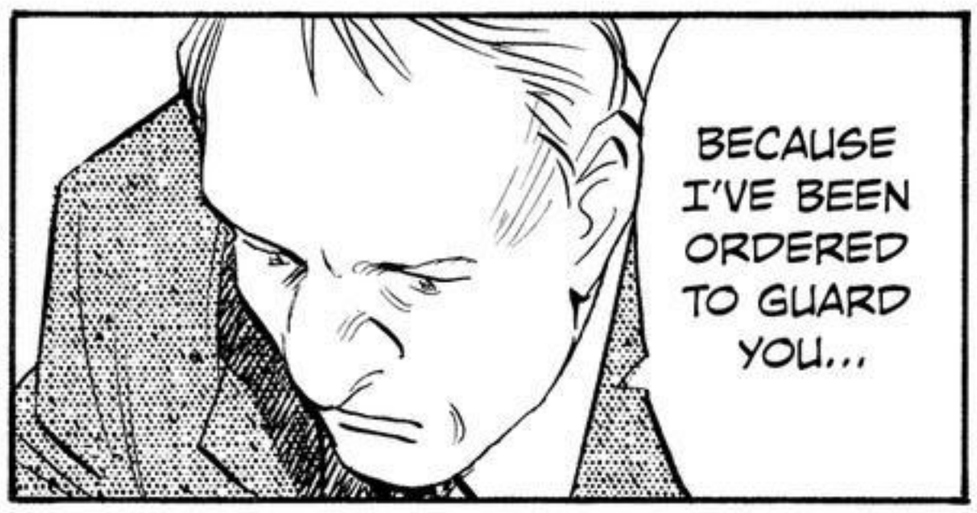
I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO GUARD YOU, MR. HAAS...

I'M SURE HE WILL...

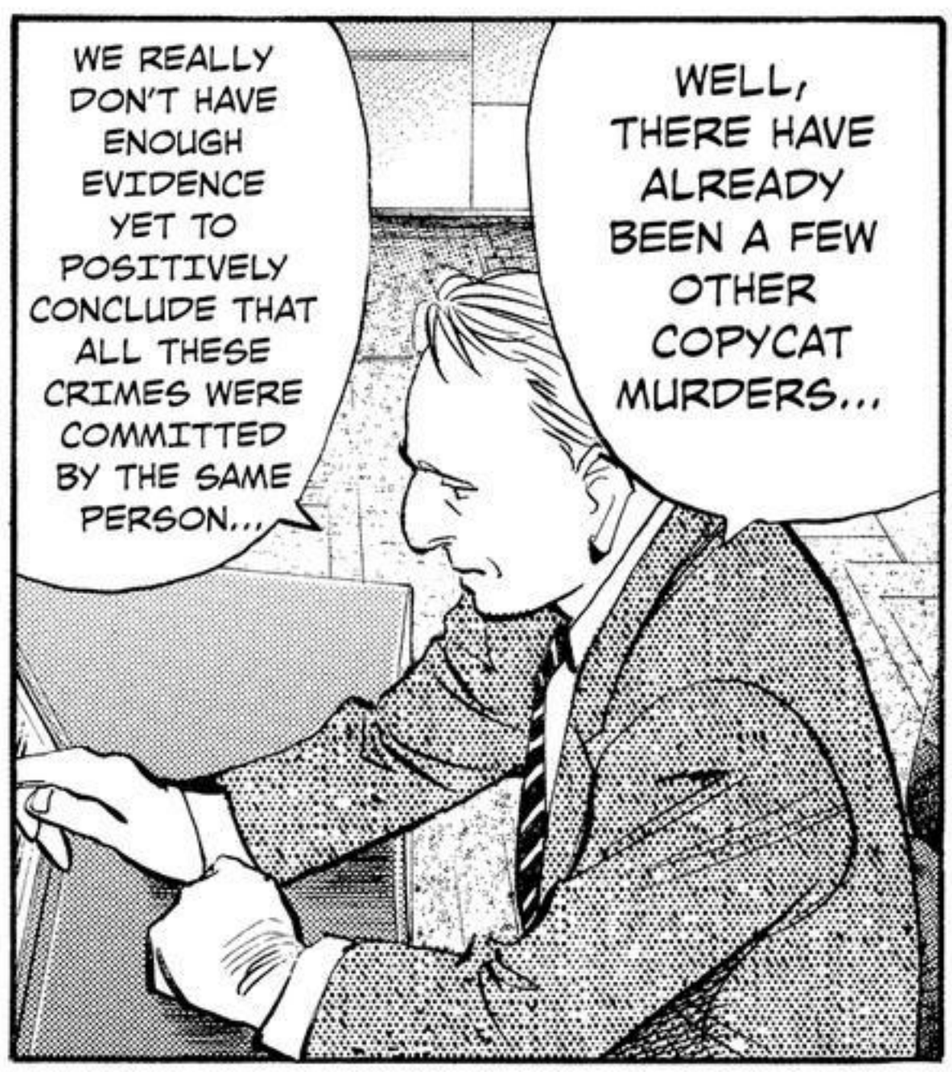
HMPH... I WONDER IF EPSILON WILL GRIEVE OVER THIS AT ALL...

HMPH...
AS IF A ROBOT COULD...

WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO EPSILON?!
WHY NOT GO GIVE HIM SOME OF YOUR ROBOT SYMPATHY, EH?!

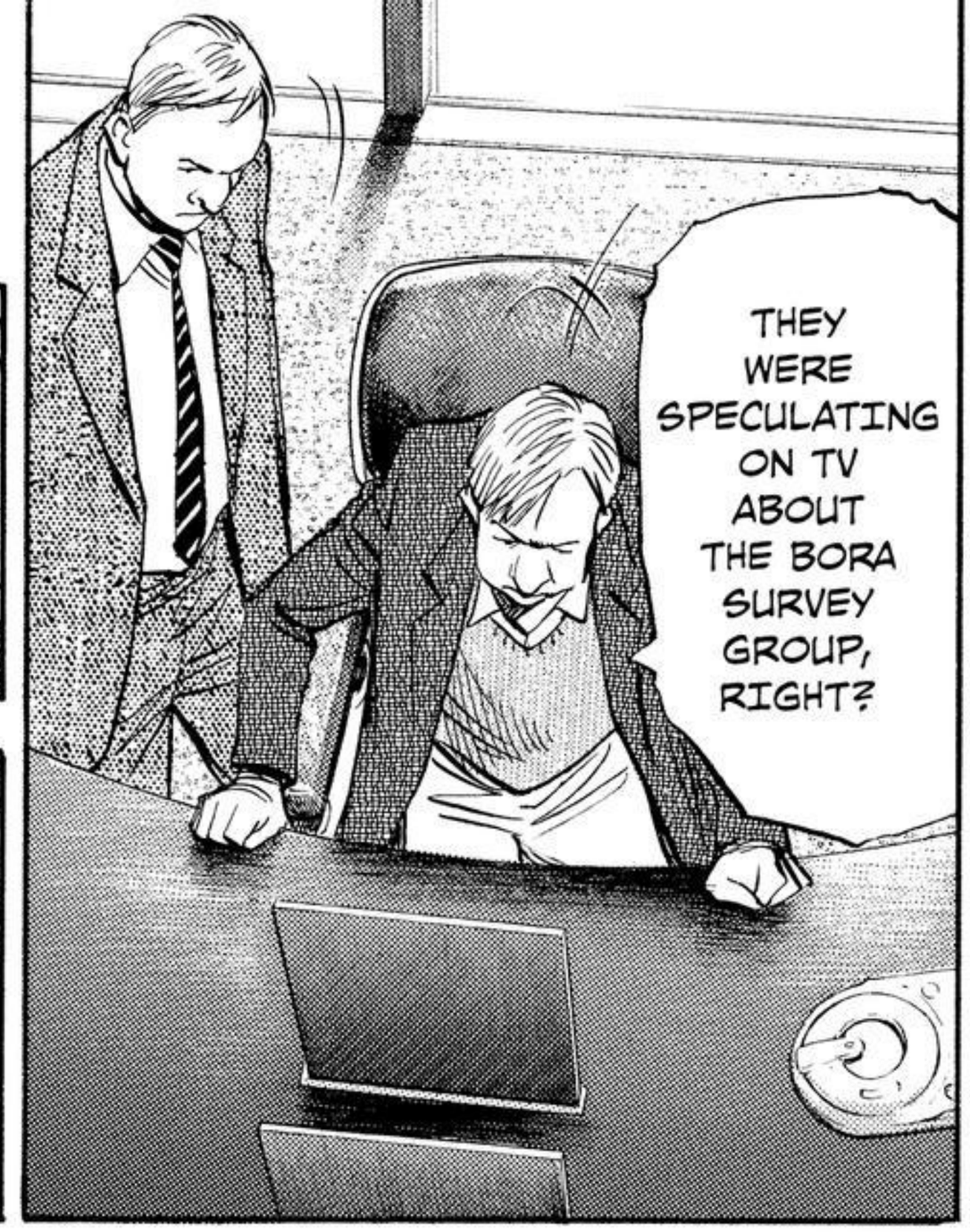

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO GUARD YOU...

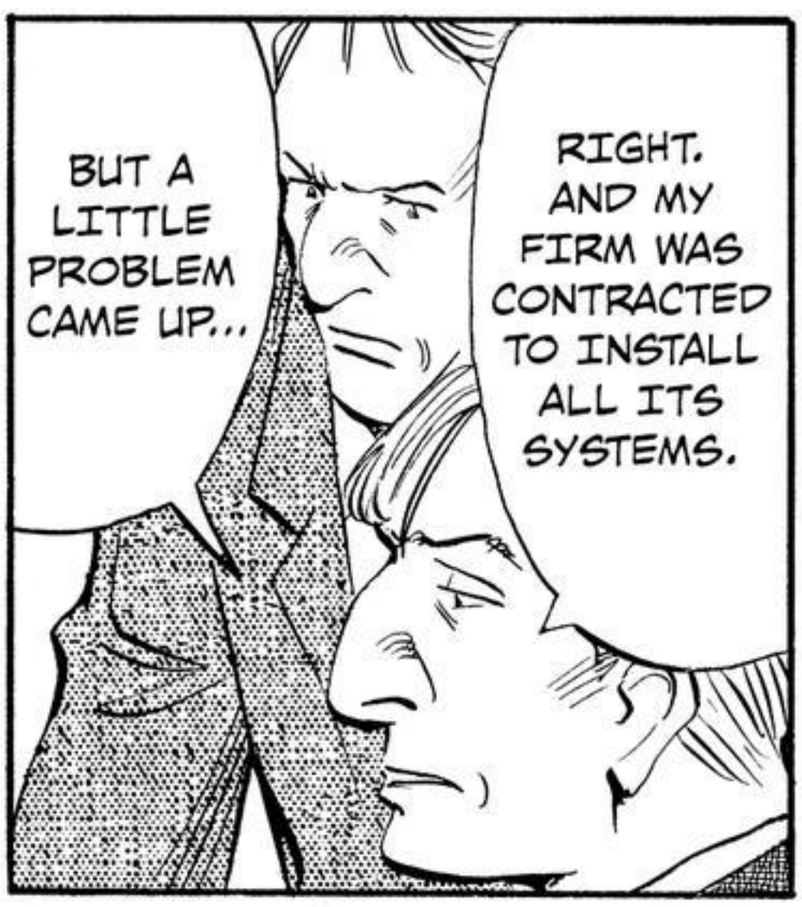
LISTEN... NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS IS THE WORK OF ONE PERSON. AND *YOU'RE* THE LEAD INSPECTOR ON THE CASE, RIGHT?!


WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE YET TO POSITIVELY CONCLUDE THAT ALL THESE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED BY THE SAME PERSON...
WELL, THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN A FEW OTHER COPYCAT MURDERS...

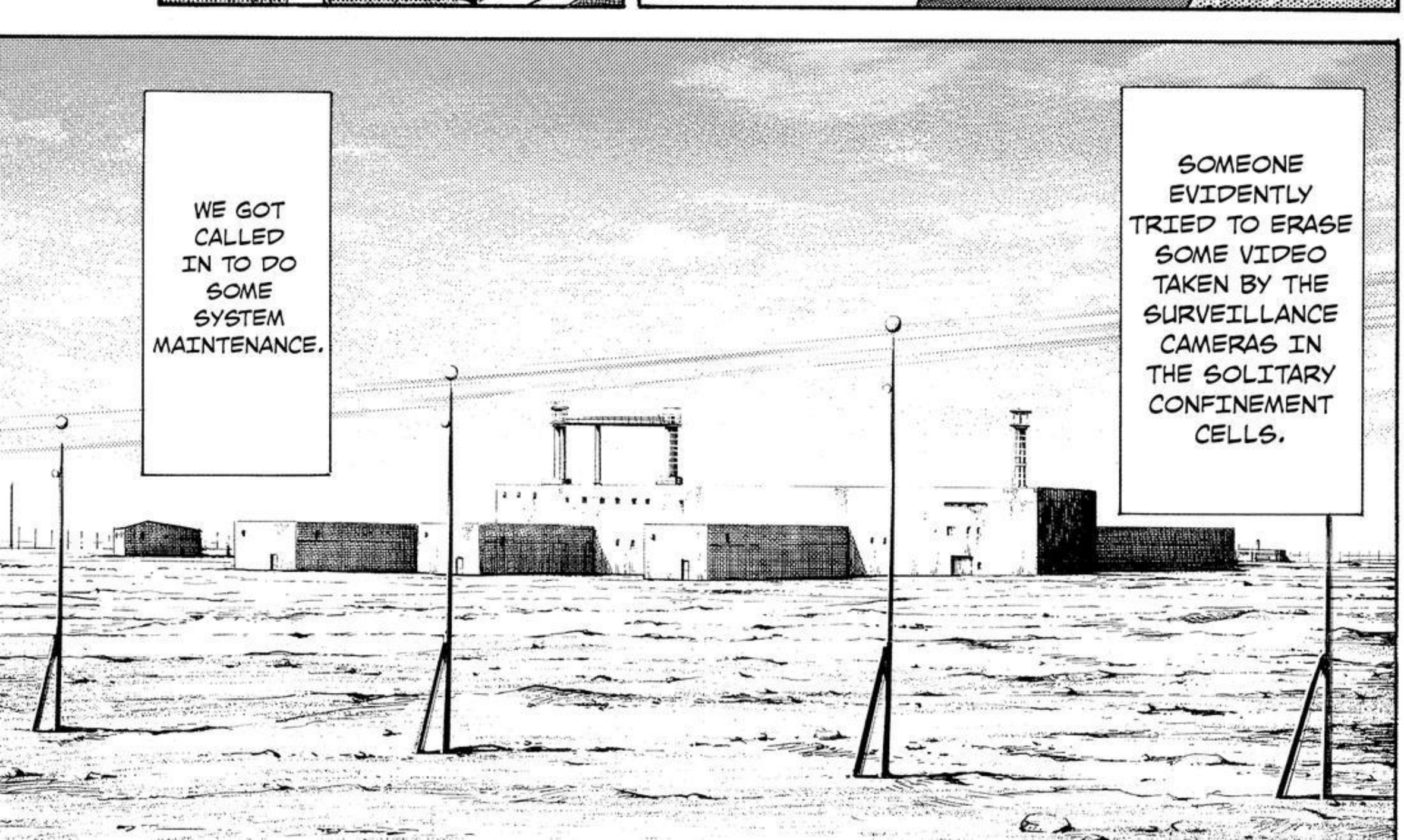
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTER-ESTING...

HERE ...


THEY WERE SPECULATING ON TV ABOUT THE BORA SURVEY GROUP, RIGHT?


BUT A LITTLE PROBLEM CAME UP...
RIGHT. AND MY FIRM WAS CONTRACTED TO INSTALL ALL ITS SYSTEMS.

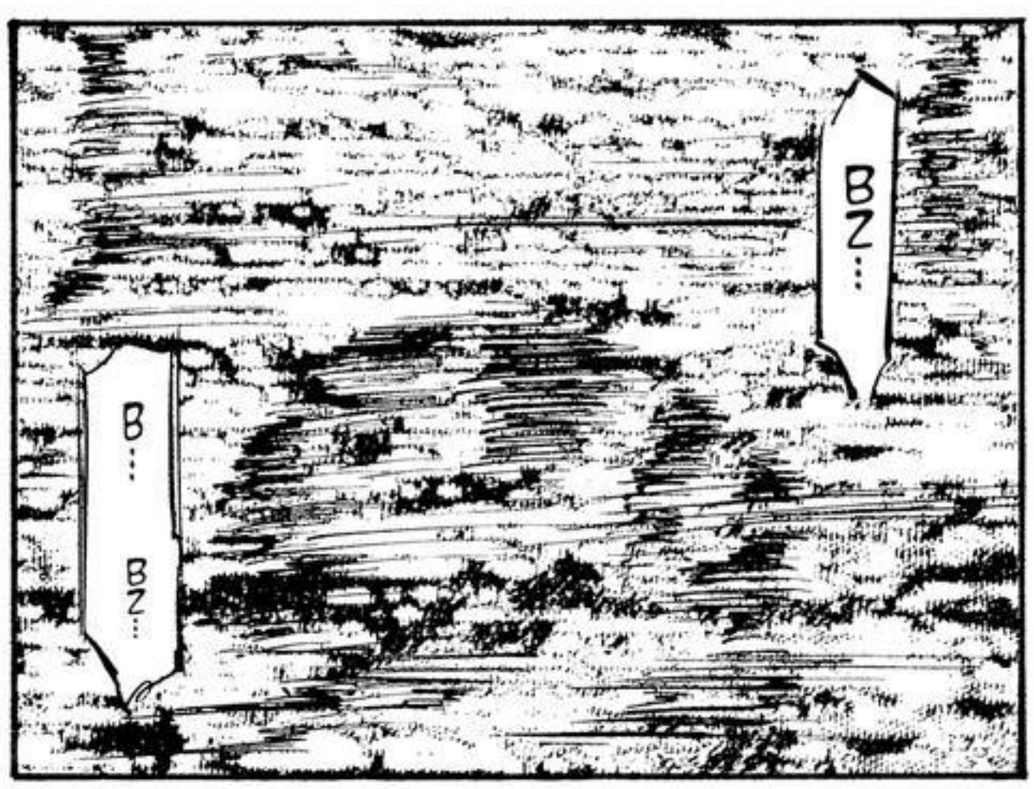
KARA-TEPA PRISON...
A PRISON IN PERSIA RUN BY THE UNITED STATES OF THRACIA...

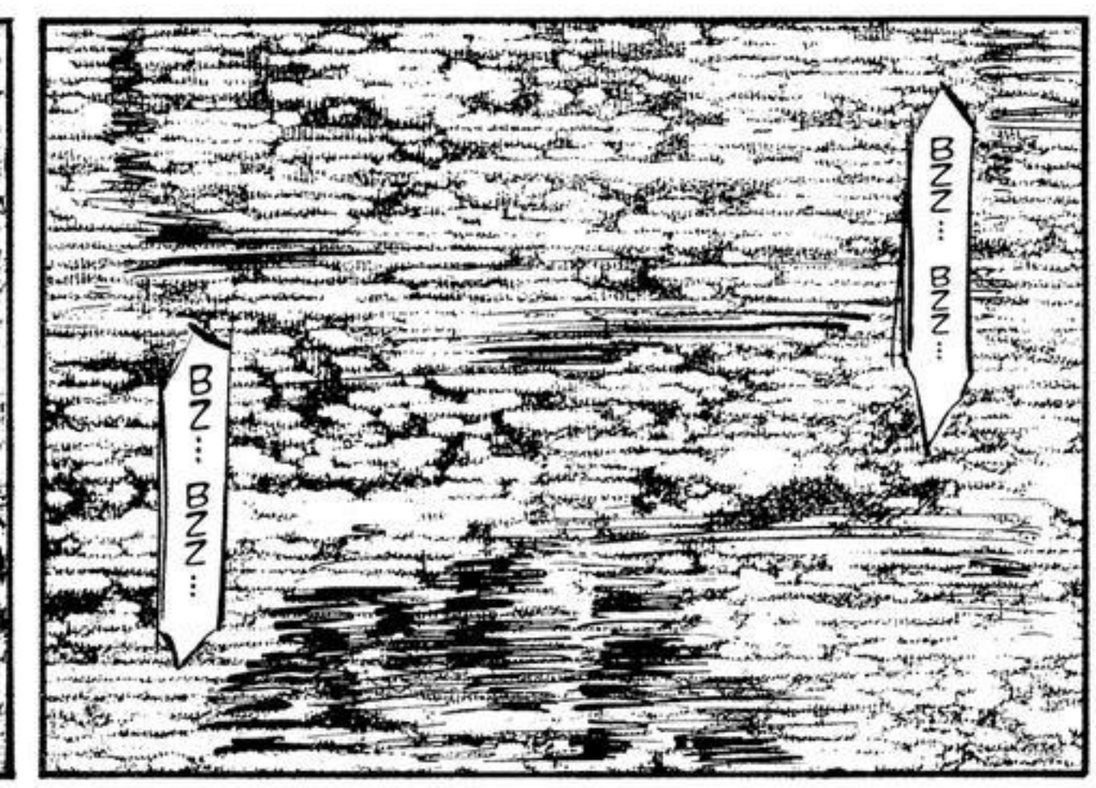

WE GOT CALLED IN TO DO SOME SYSTEM MAINTENANCE.
SOMEONE EVIDENTLY TRIED TO ERASE SOME VIDEO TAKEN BY THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN THE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELLS.

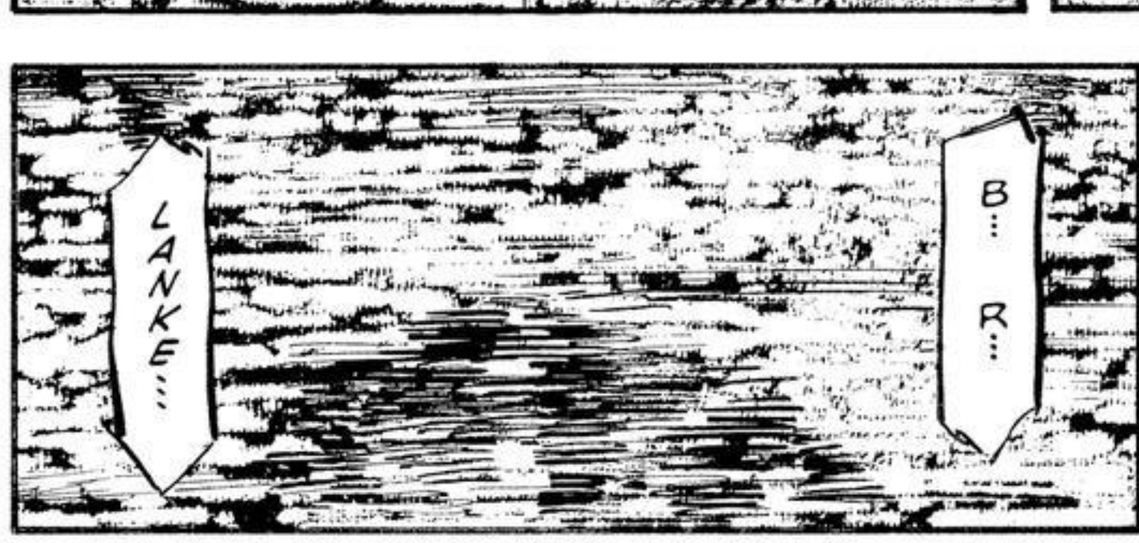
WANT TO SEE IT?
AND WE FOUND THIS ON ONE OF THEM...

GO AHEAD...

WE THOUGHT WE'D BE ABLE TO FIX IT RIGHT AWAY, BUT THERE WERE MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS...
WE EVENTUALLY HAD TO SWAP OUT SOME OF THE HARD DRIVES.


BZ...
B... BZ...


BZZZ... BZZZ...
BZ... BZZZ...

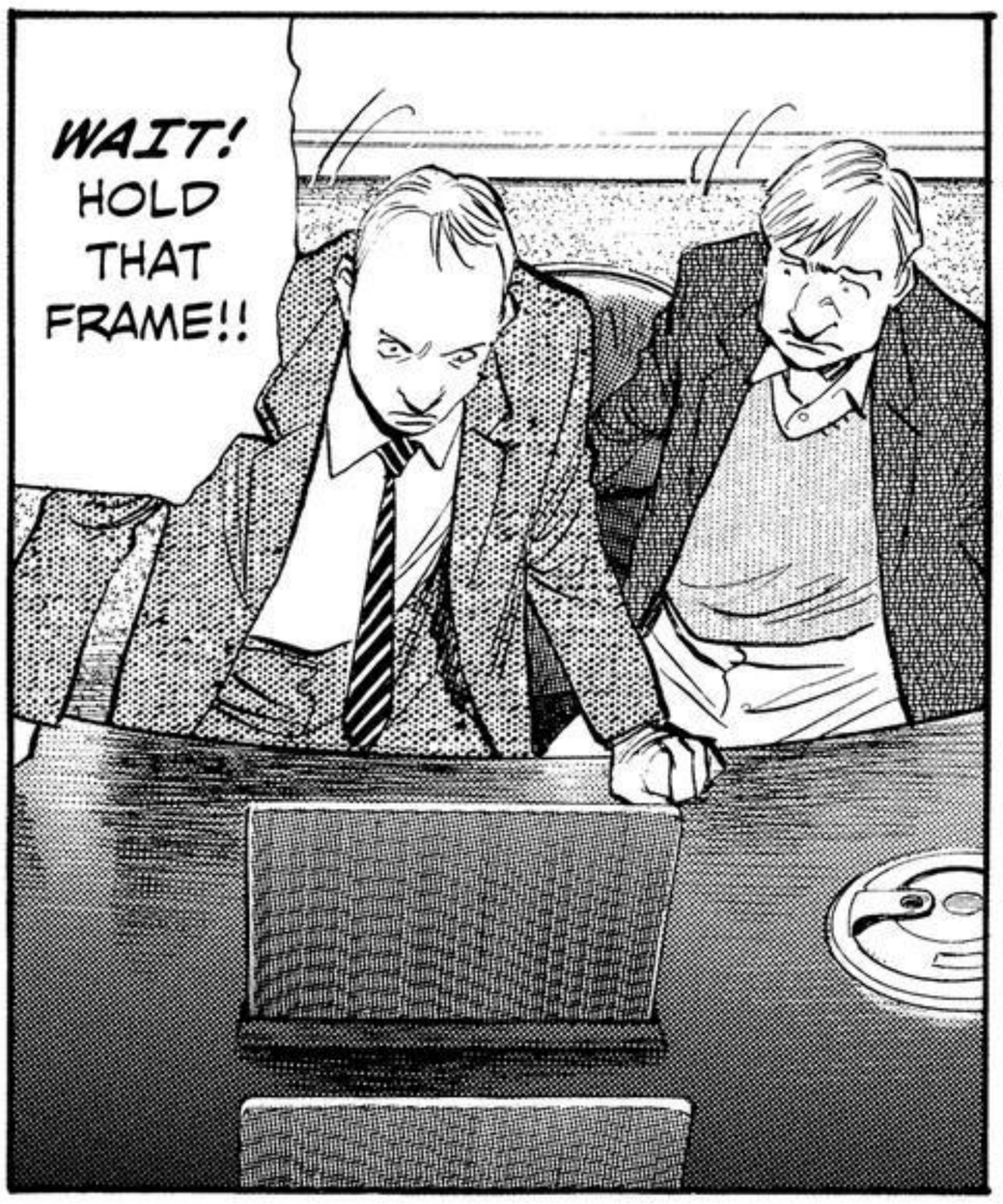

B... R...
LANKE...

TASAKI...
HOWARD...

HERE... I CAN CLEAN IT UP A BIT...
IS THAT A HUMAN VOICE?

HOWARD...
TASAKI...
LANKE...

...!!


WAIT! HOLD THAT FRAME!!

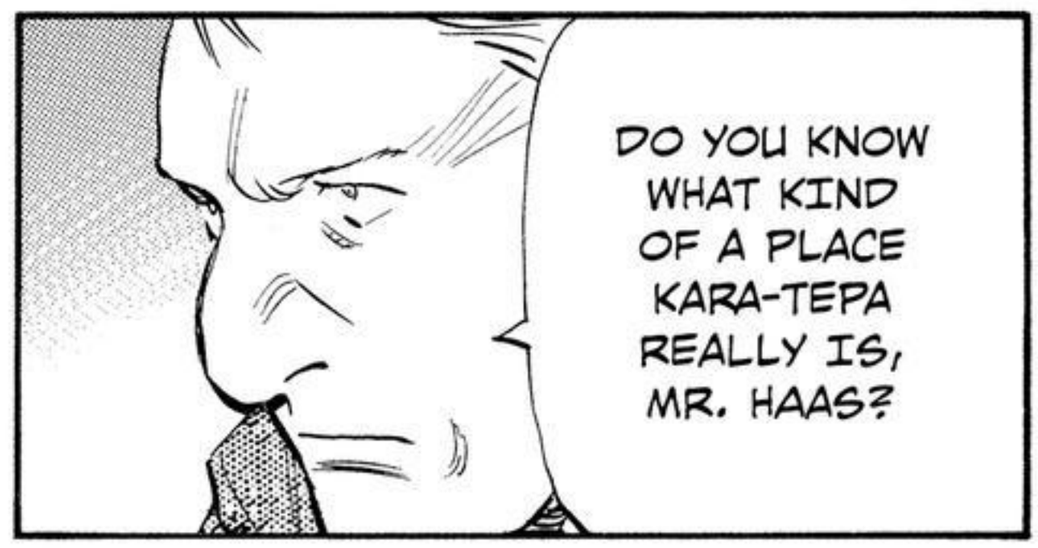
HE'S REPEATING PEOPLE'S NAMES OVER AND OVER, RIGHT?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HE'S CHANTING THE NAMES OF THE MURDER VICTIMS, LIKE HE'S CURSING THEM....

LIKE I SAID... HOW CAN YOU BE HANGING OUT HERE WATCHIN' ME AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

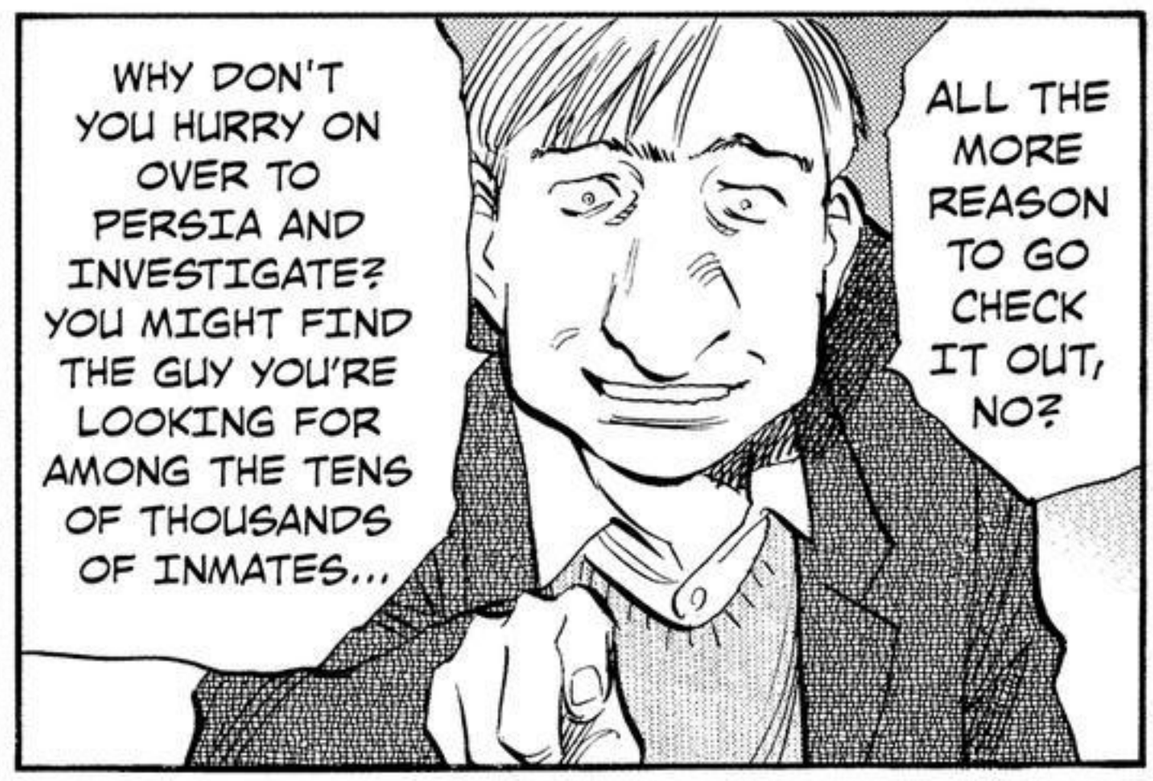
I CAN ENHANCE THIS WITH MY OWN IMAGE STABILIZATION FUNCTION...

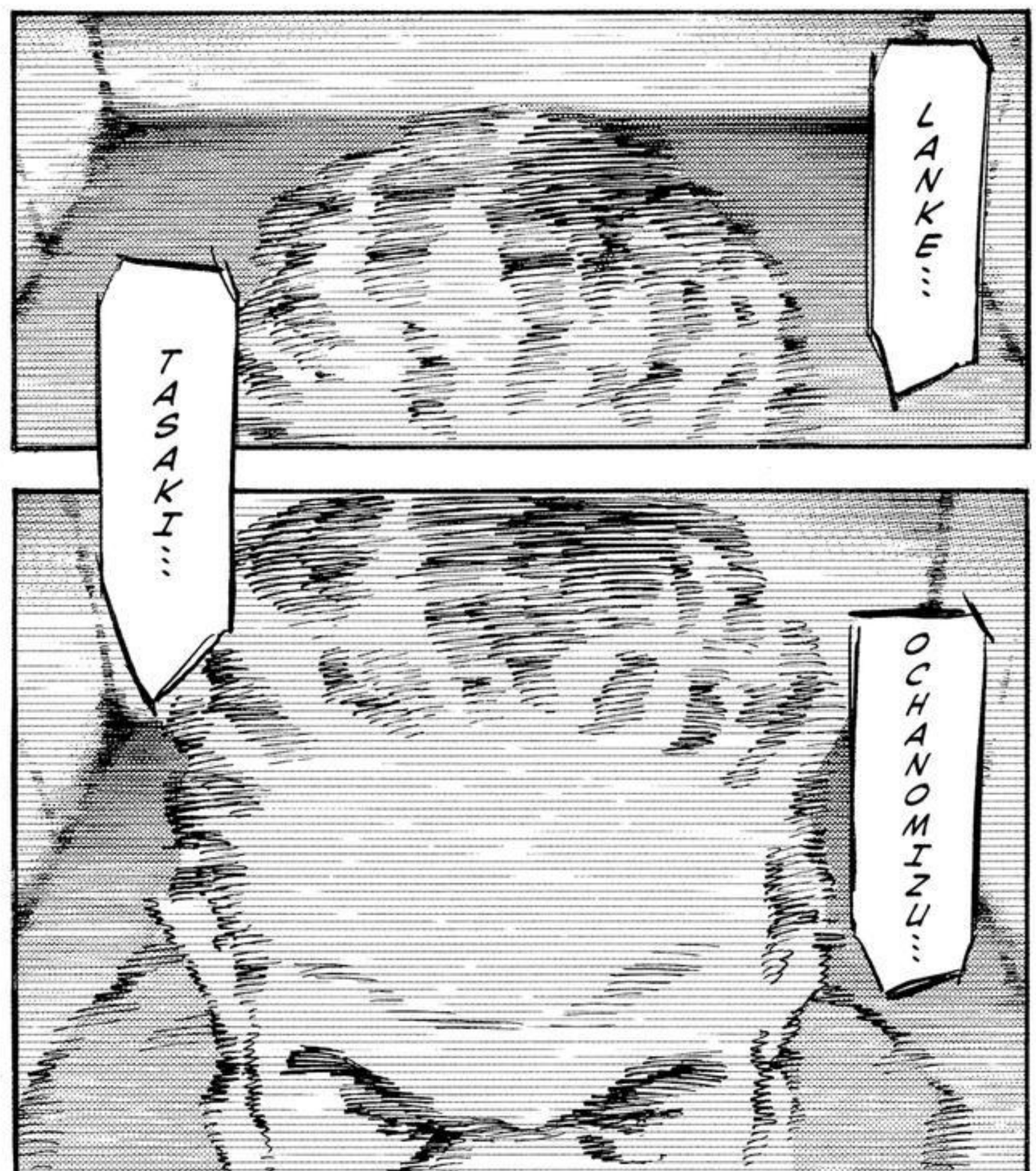
THE MOST DANGEROUS ONES...
...


DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF A PLACE KARA-TEPA REALLY IS, MR. HAAS?

I ASSUME THEY KEEP WAR CRIMINALS THERE, RIGHT?

THEN AGAIN, THEY PROBABLY ALL HAVE A SERIOUS GRUDGE AGAINST THE BORA SURVEY GROUP.


WHY DON'T YOU HURRY ON OVER TO PERSIA AND INVESTIGATE? YOU MIGHT FIND THE GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AMONG THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INMATES...
ALL THE MORE REASON TO GO CHECK IT OUT, NO?


LANKE...
TASAKI...
OCHANOMIZU...

HERE WE GO... THIS IS BETTER...

LOOK AT THIS...

LANKE...

OCHANOMIZU...

TASAKI...

HOWARD...

HEY... OUR BUSINESS HAS TOP-LEVEL ***SECURITY CLEARANCE***... WE CAN'T JUST...

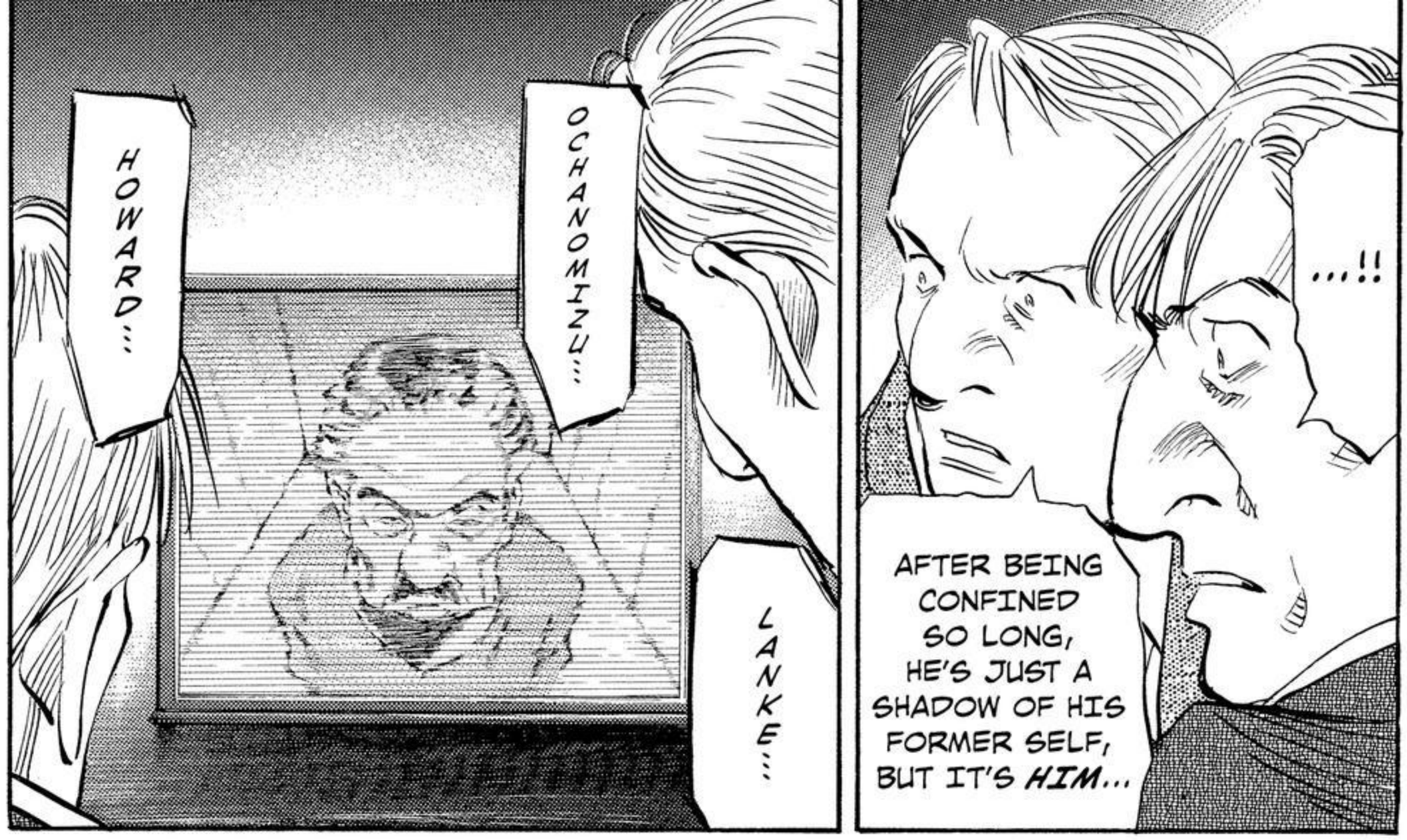
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS GOT TO DO WITH SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT?!

WHAT THE--?!

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT TO ***YOURSELF***?!

TELL ME, MR. HAAS...

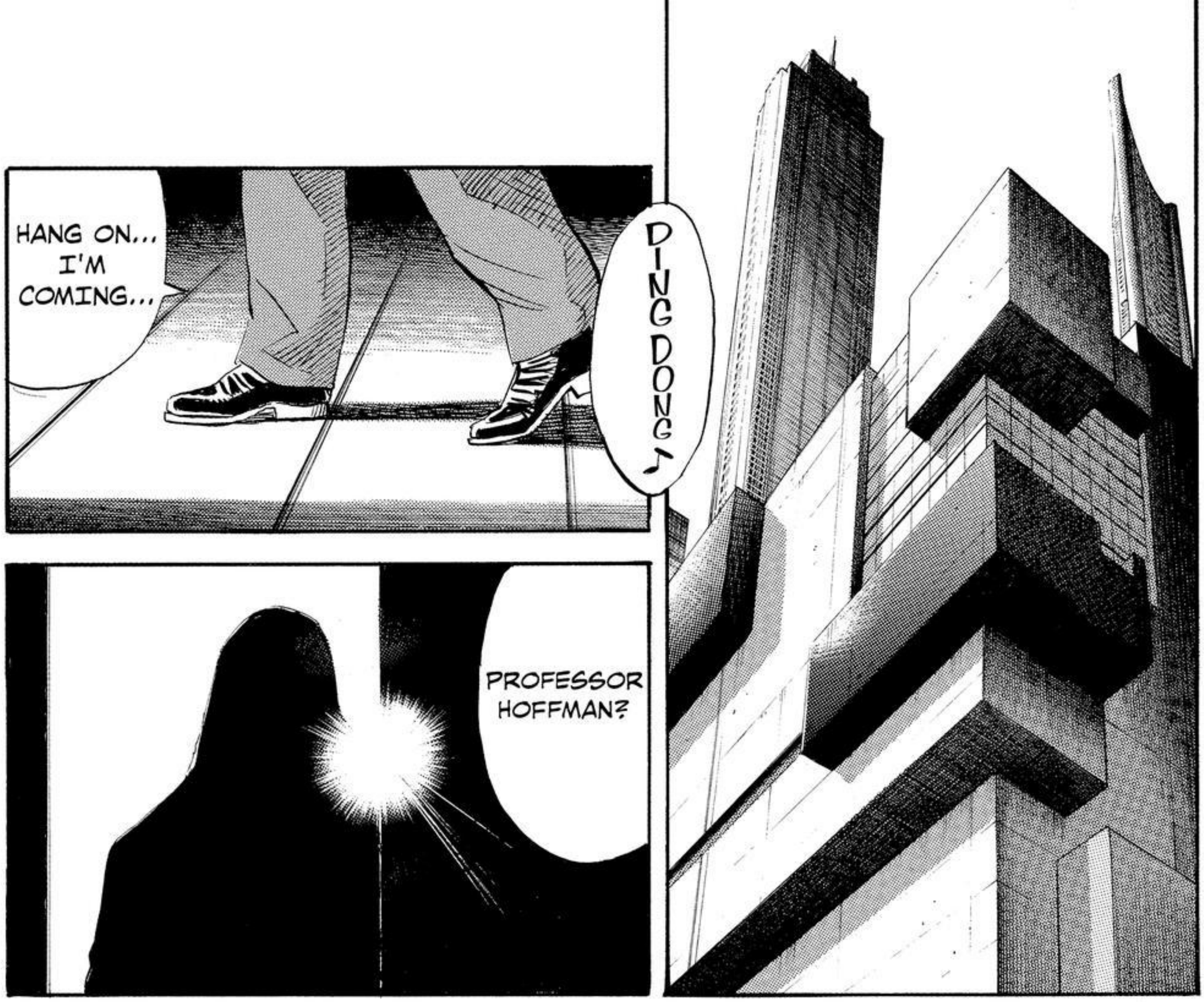
HUH...?
IT'S JUST A VIDEO OF SOME CRAZY INMATE, RIGHT? WHAT THE HELL DO I CARE?!!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?
IT'S THE SUPREME LEADER OF THE FORMER KINGDOM OF PERSIA!
IT'S DARIUS XIV!!!

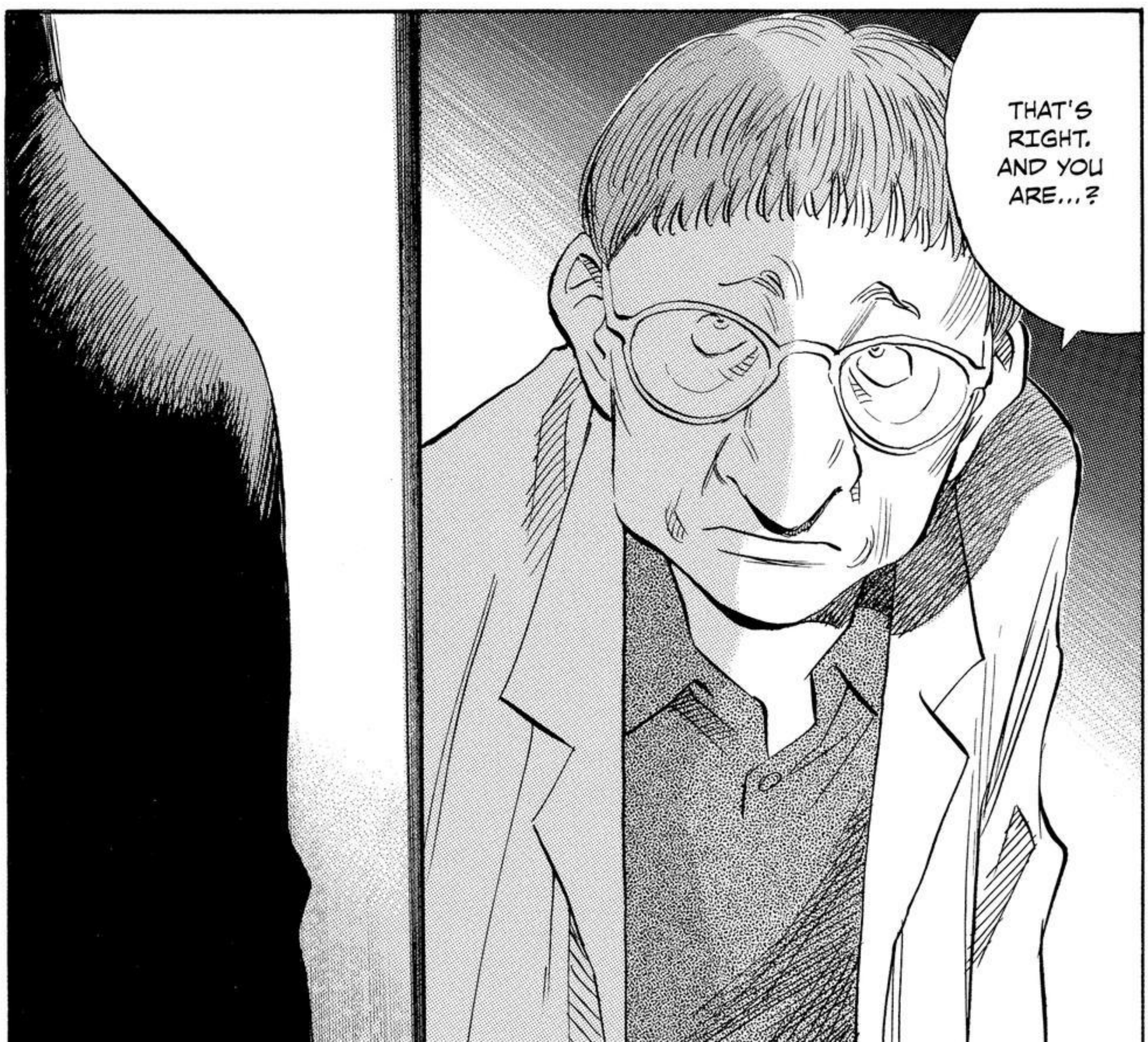

...!!
AFTER BEING CONFINED SO LONG, HE'S JUST A SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SELF, BUT IT'S *HIM*...
OCHANOMIZU...
LANKE...
HOWARD...

HOFFMAN...

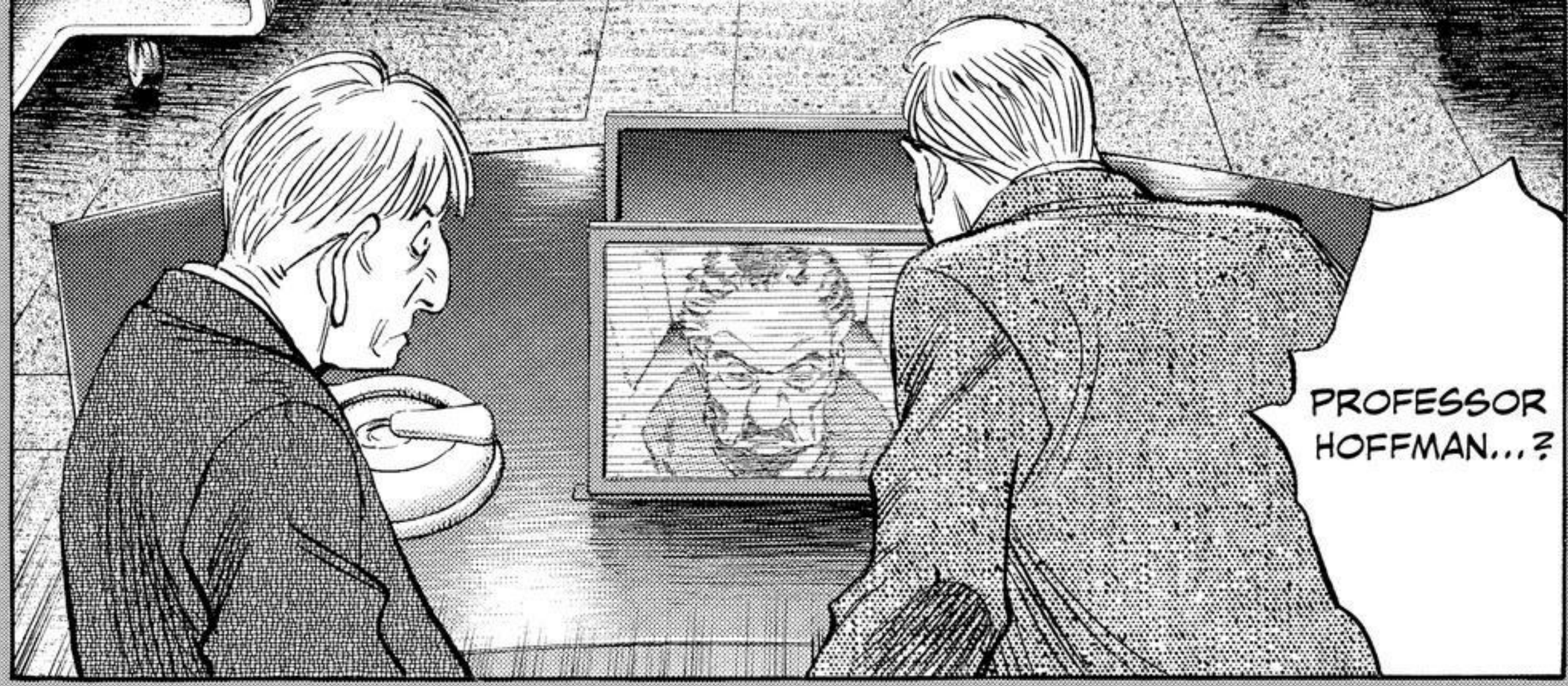
HOFF-MAN?

WHAT...?!

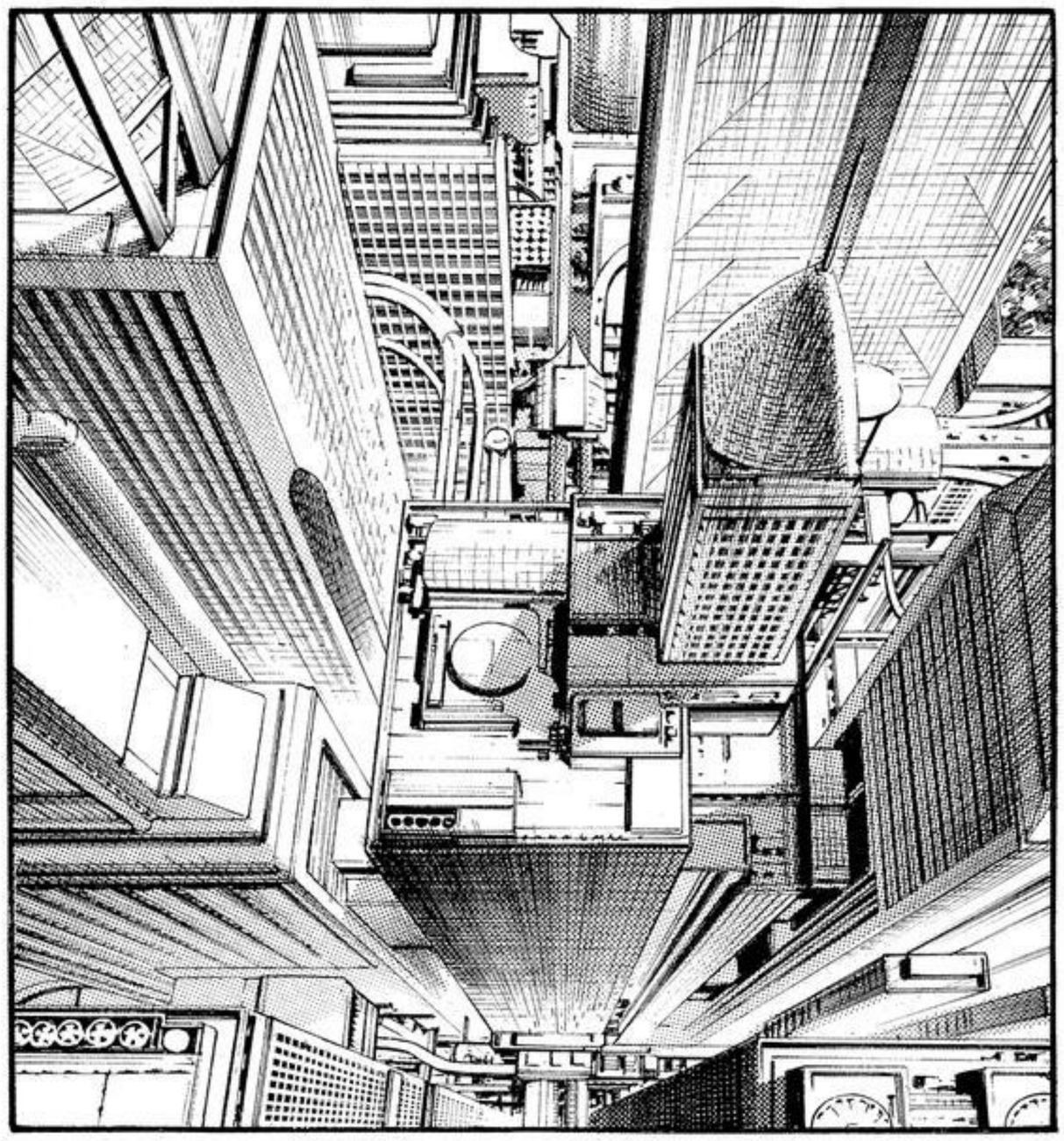

HANG ON... I'M COMING...
DING DONG♪
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?


THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU ARE...?

Act 30 THREE SCIENTISTS AT KIMBERLEY



GASP!



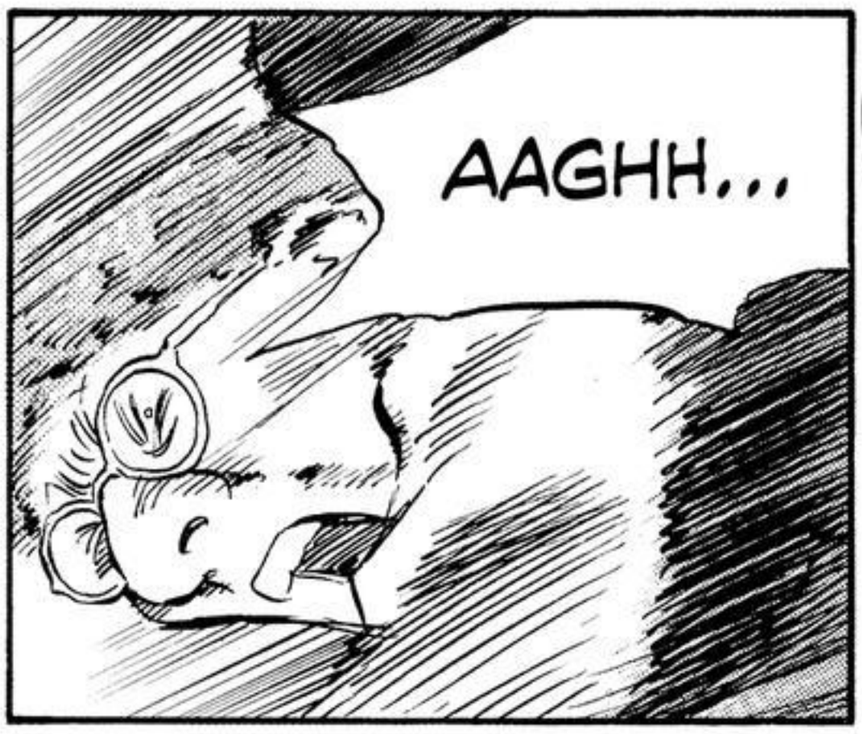
CRASH

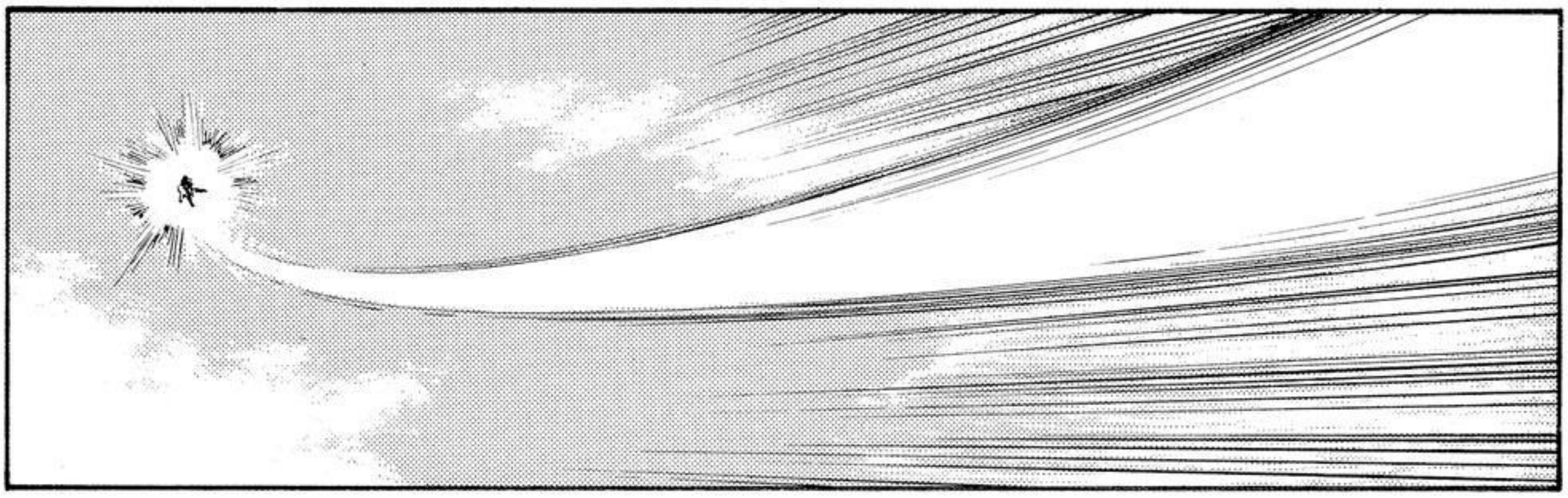
HEELP!!

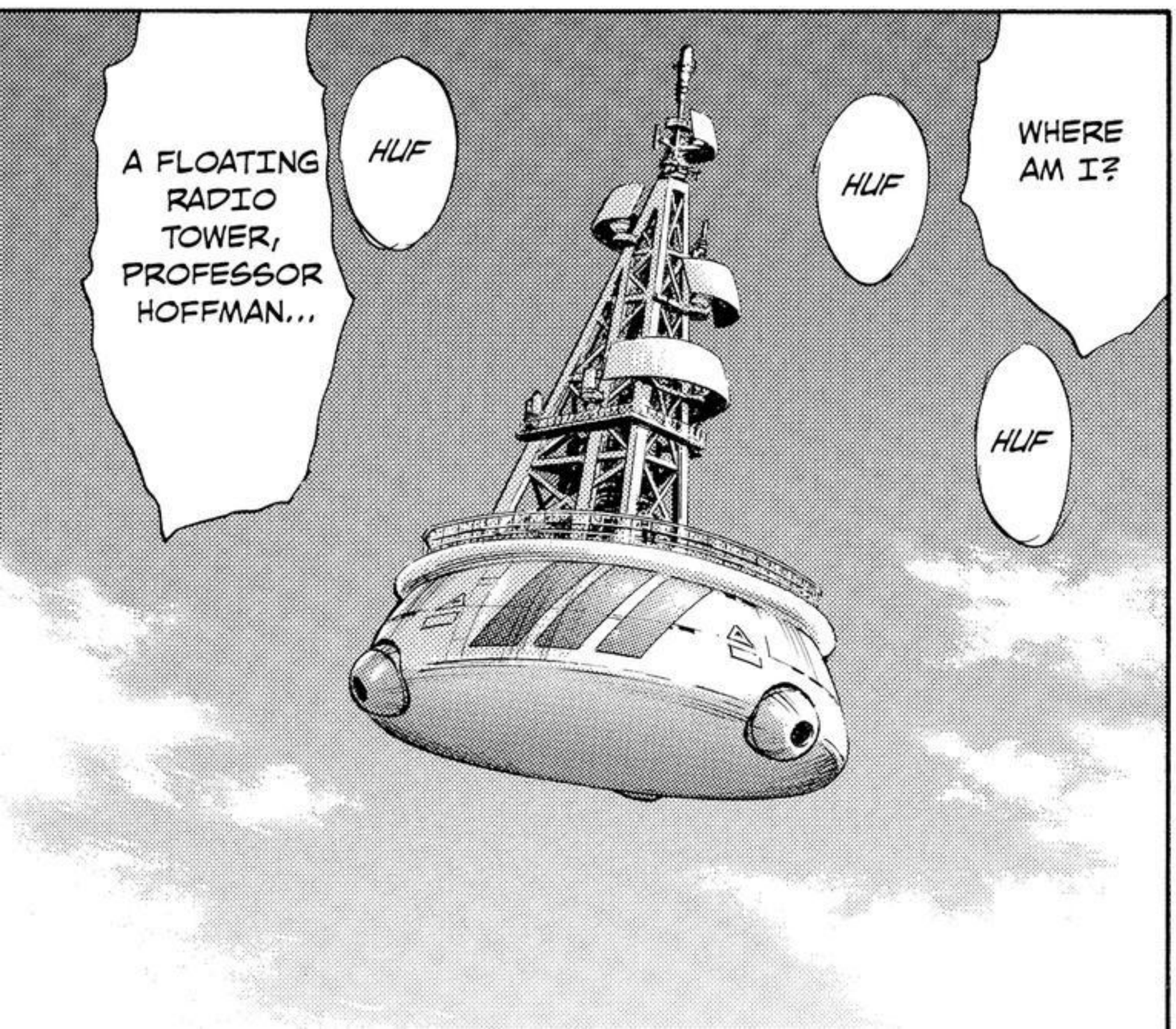
WHAT THE...?
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME...

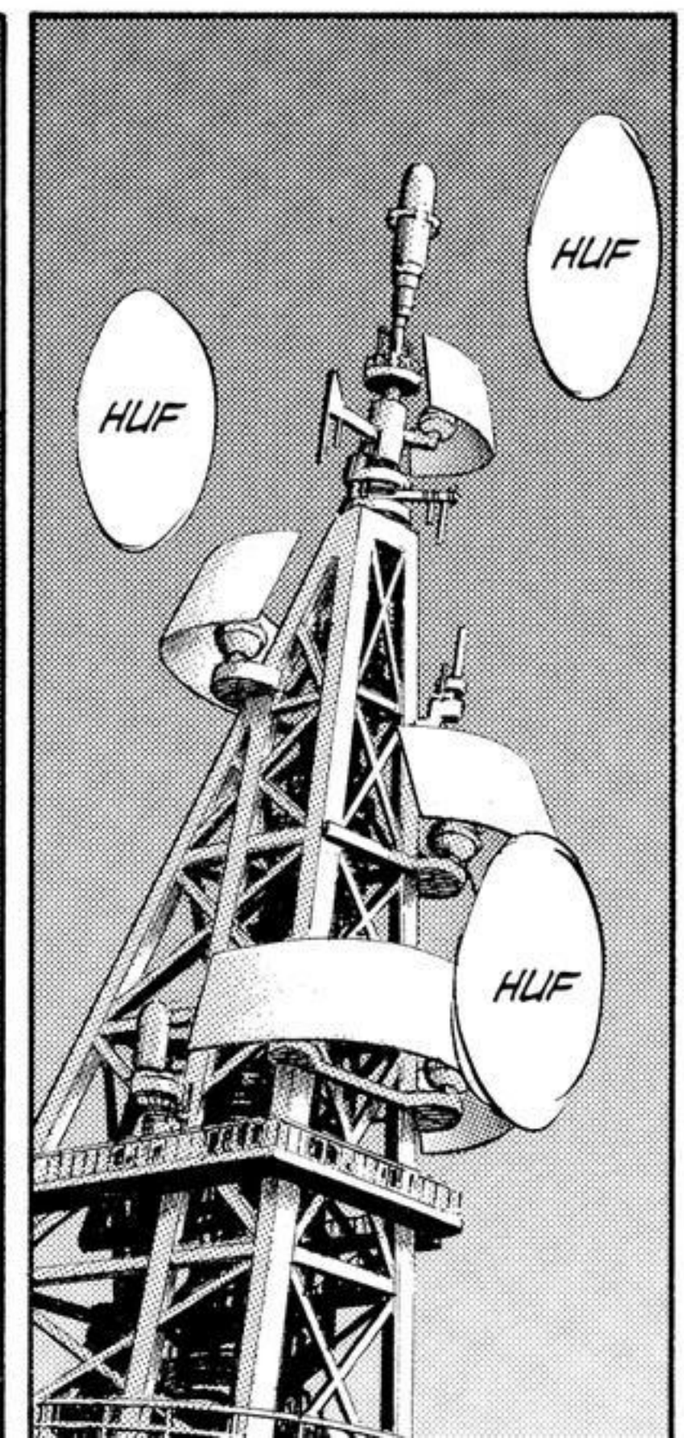
MY LABORA-TORY...!!

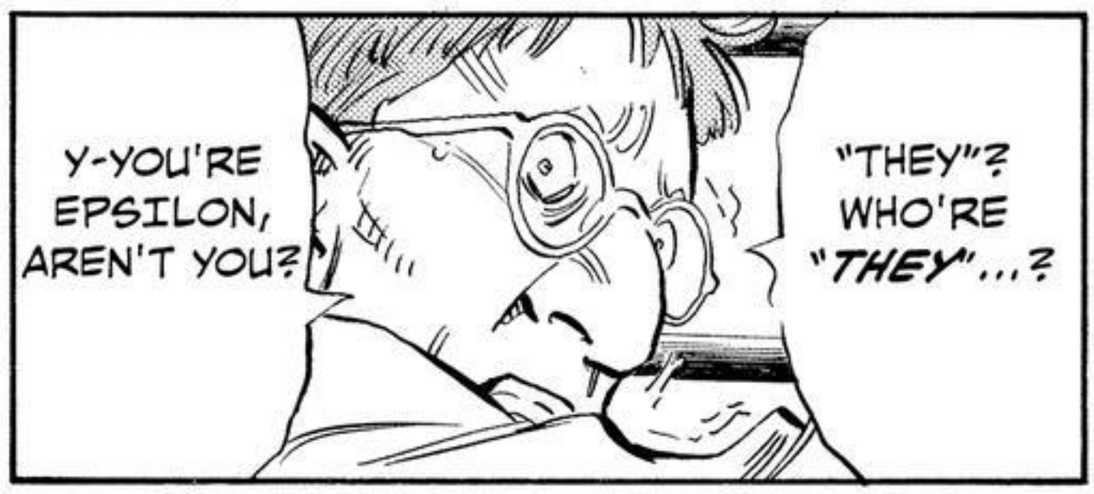
BOOM


AAGHH...



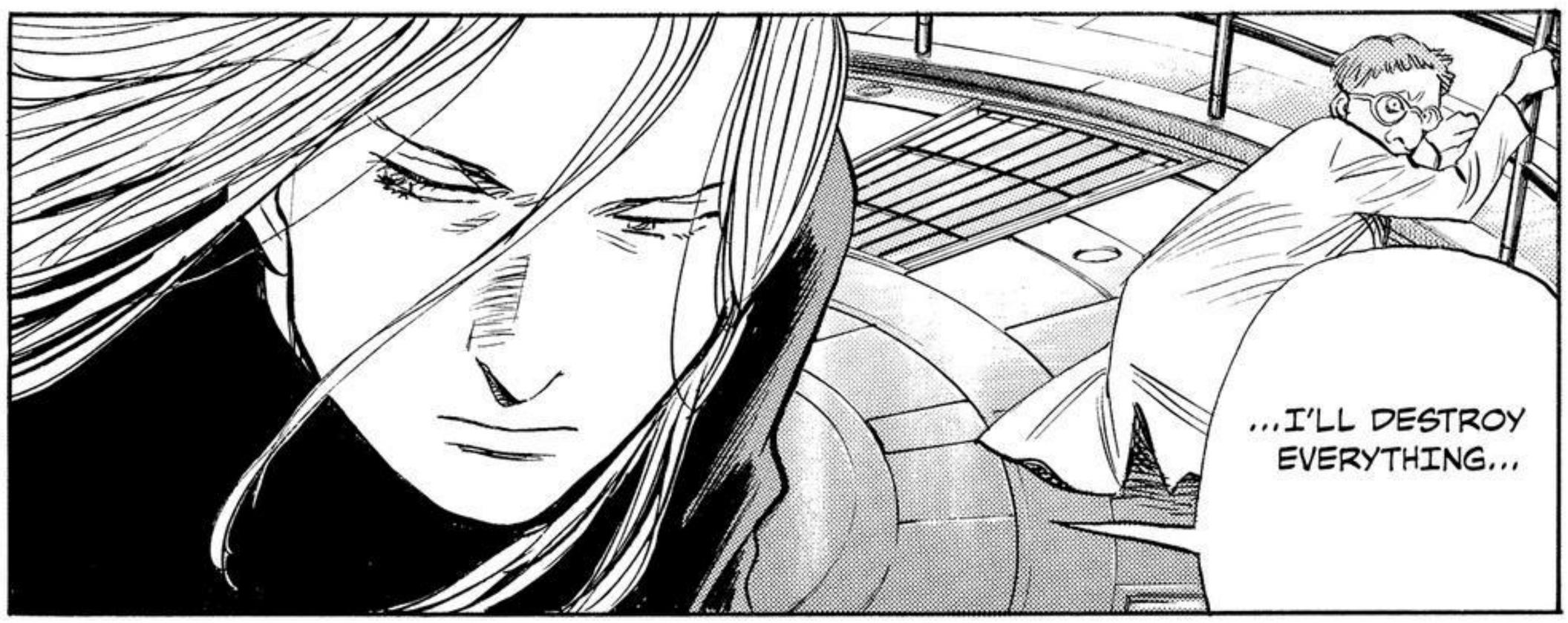

A FLOATING RADIO TOWER, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN...
HUF
HUF
WHERE AM I?
HUF


HUF
HUF
HUF

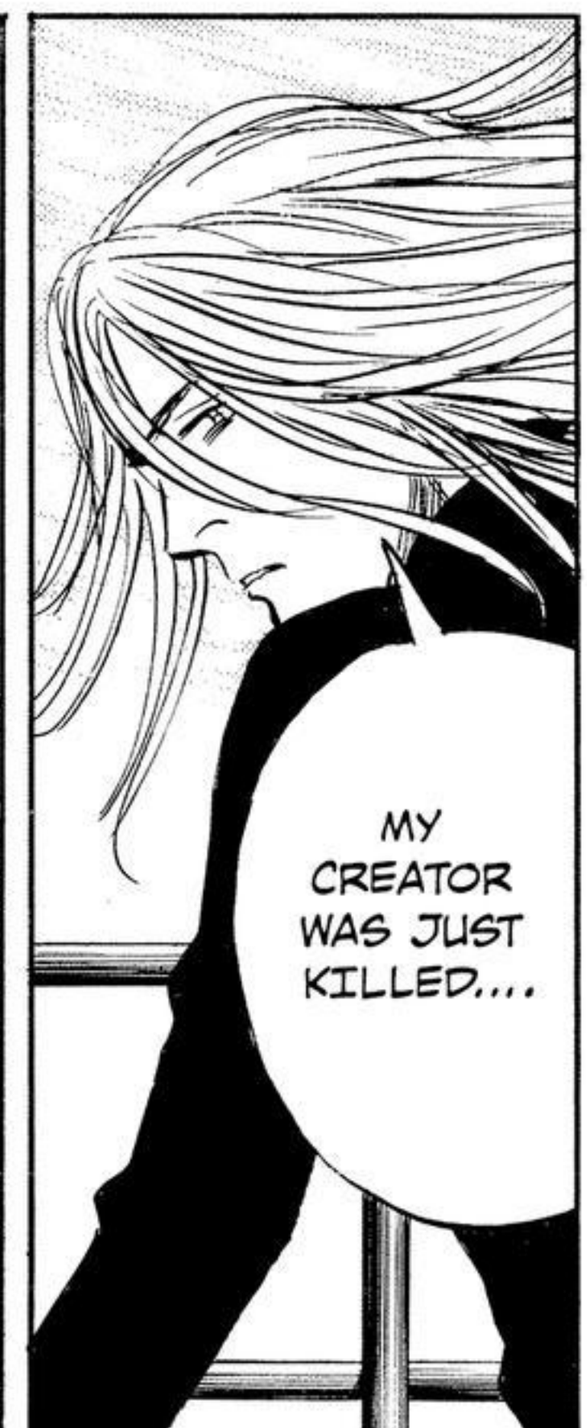

Y-YOU'RE EPSILON, AREN'T YOU?
"THEY"? WHO'RE "THEY"...?

THE PROBLEM IS, IF I HAVE TO USE MY PHOTON ENERGY IN THE CITY...

PANT
GASP
WHATEVER DIRECTION THEY COME FROM, WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF HERE...


...I'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING...

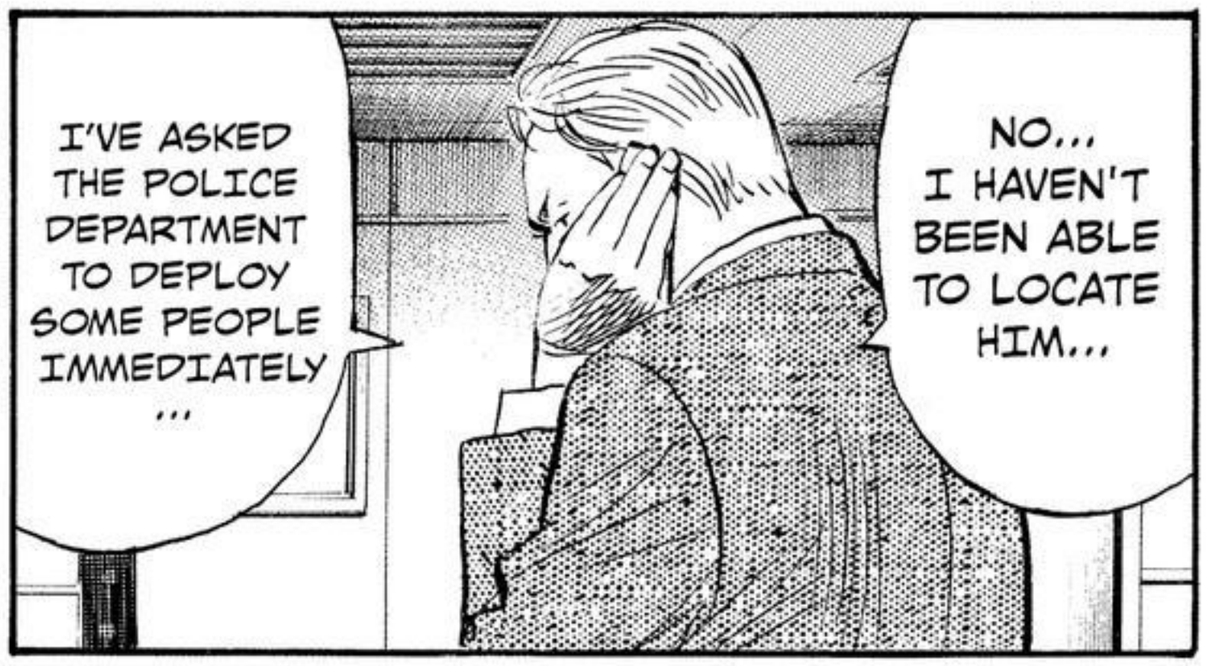
PROFESSOR NEWTON-HOWARD...?


MY CREATOR WAS JUST KILLED....

THEY'RE AFTER YOU, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN, SO YOU'VE GOT TO GET FURTHER AWAY...
I HEARD YOU WERE A PACIFIST ROBOT, BUT YOU CERTAINLY DON'T ACT LIKE ONE...
N...NO... WAIT A SECOND...

YES... AND RIGHT NOW...
I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY SELF-CONTROL!!
Act 30
THREE SCIENTISTS AT KIMBERLEY

WELL? DID YOU REACH PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?


I'VE ASKED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DEPLOY SOME PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY ...
NO... I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HIM...

...!!
I KNOW, BUT I'M EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DATA YOU'VE SHOWN ME HERE...

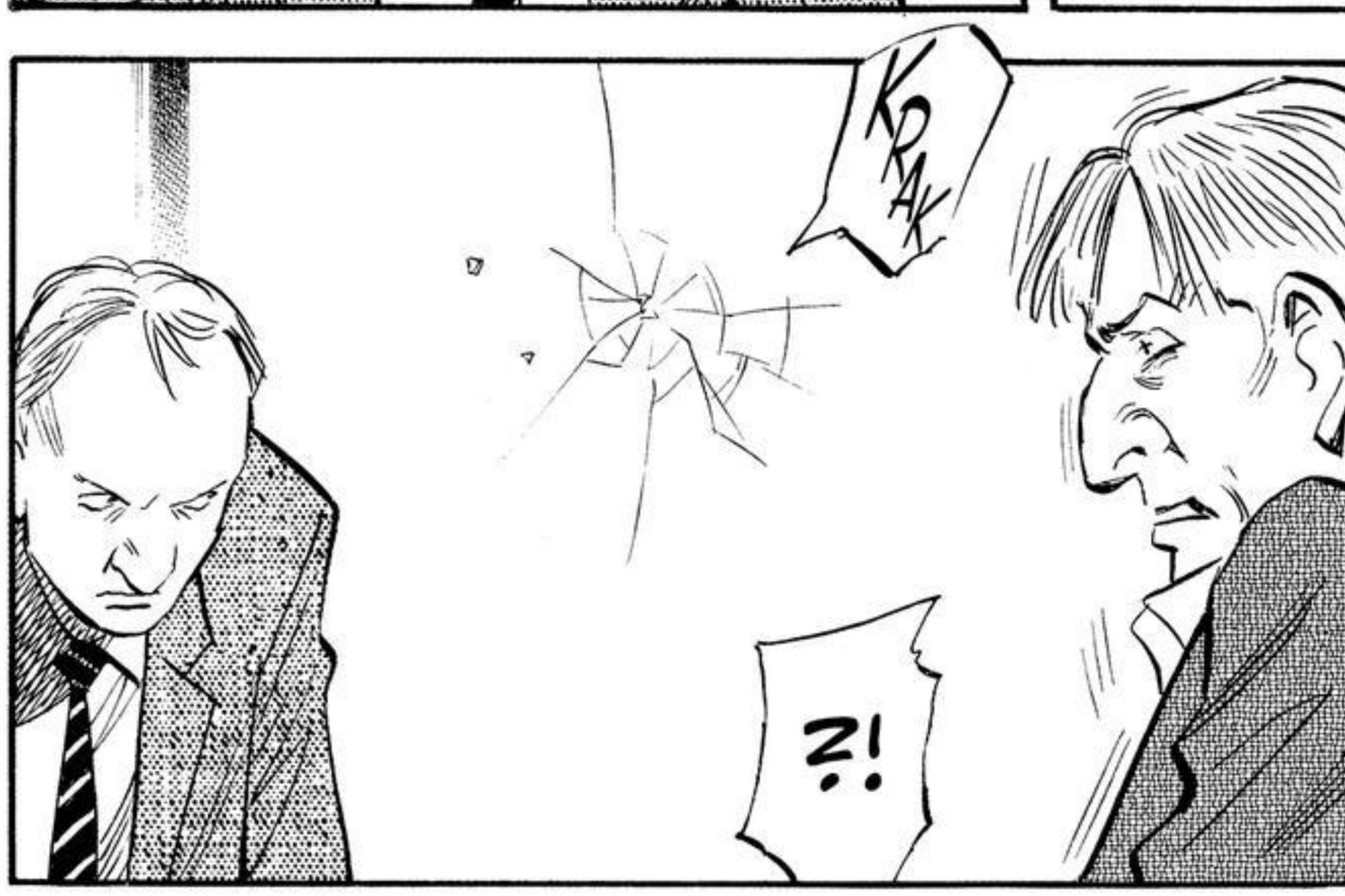
THE MAN WHO BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD IS IN DANGER, GESICHT.
WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOK FOR HIM YOURSELF?

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CONFISCATE THIS AS VITAL EVIDENCE.
THIS SHOWS THAT DARIUS XIV, THE SUPREME LEADER OF THE FORMER KINGDOM OF PERSIA, MAY BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS CASE...

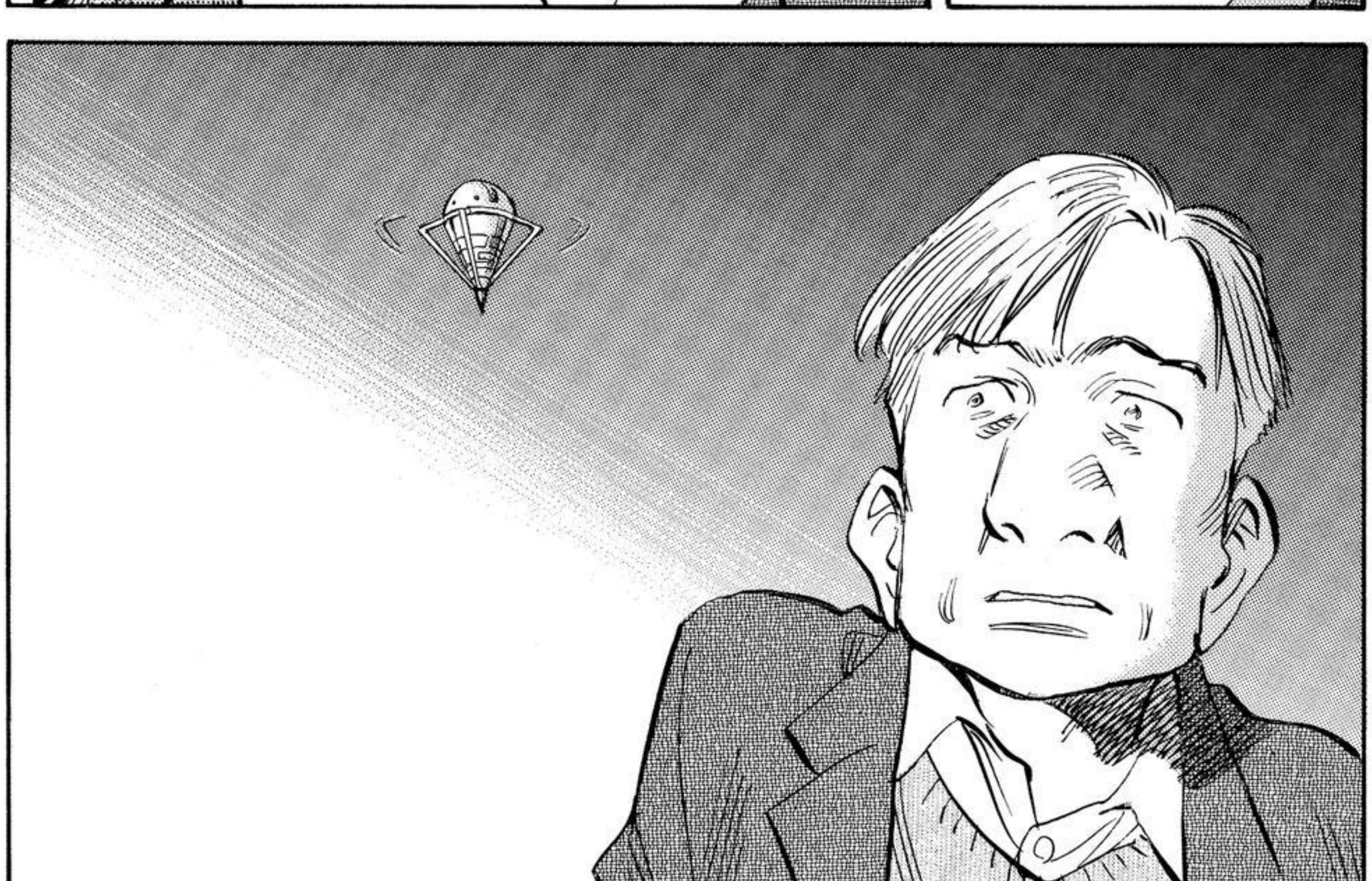
...

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

BUT...
I'M AFRAID THERE MAY ALSO BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS AND WHOEVER'S AFTER YOU...


KRAK
ㄱ!

...



AGH ...!

GET DOWN !!

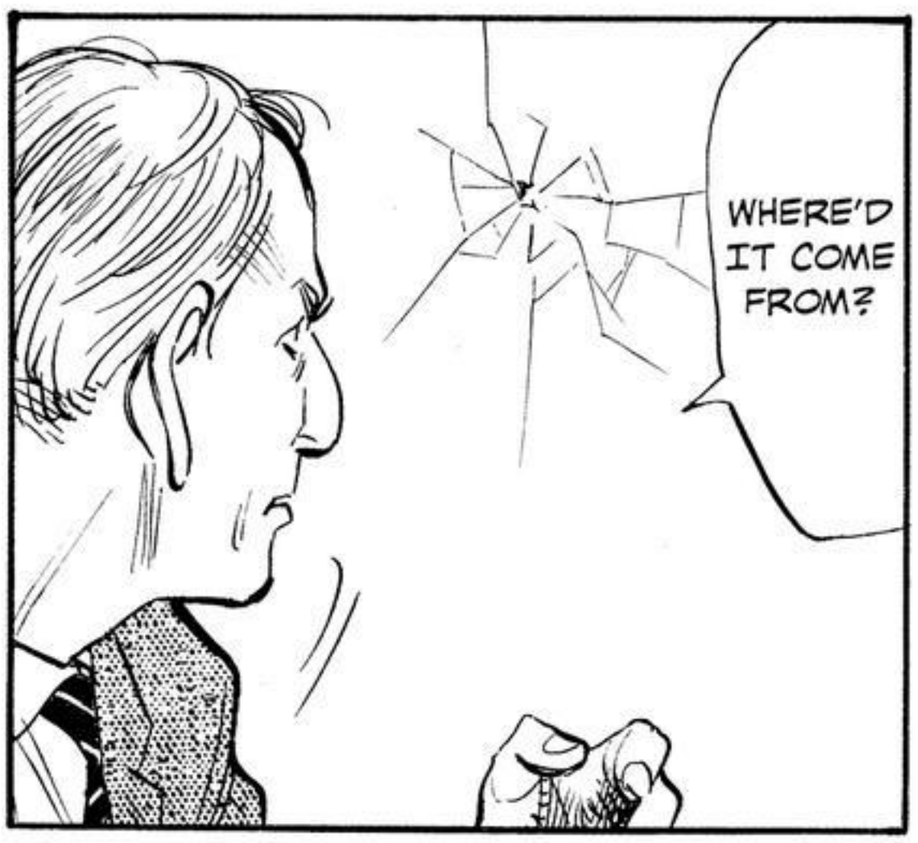
SLOOP

NOOO!!

PHOTO-THERMAL SMART BOMB...

FSSH SSH

FSSH FSSH



I'M A MEMBER OF AN ANTI-ROBOT GROUP...

LISTEN... I...I'M...
...

...

ANTI-ROBOT GROUP...

NOT ONLY THAT, THEY THINK I'M A TRAITOR AND WANT ME DEAD.

BUT WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU?

...

WELL, THAT WAS THE WORK OF MY GROUP!!
YOU REMEMBER THAT ROBOT JUDGE WHO WAS KILLED IN A HOTEL BOMBING IN BERLIN, RIGHT?

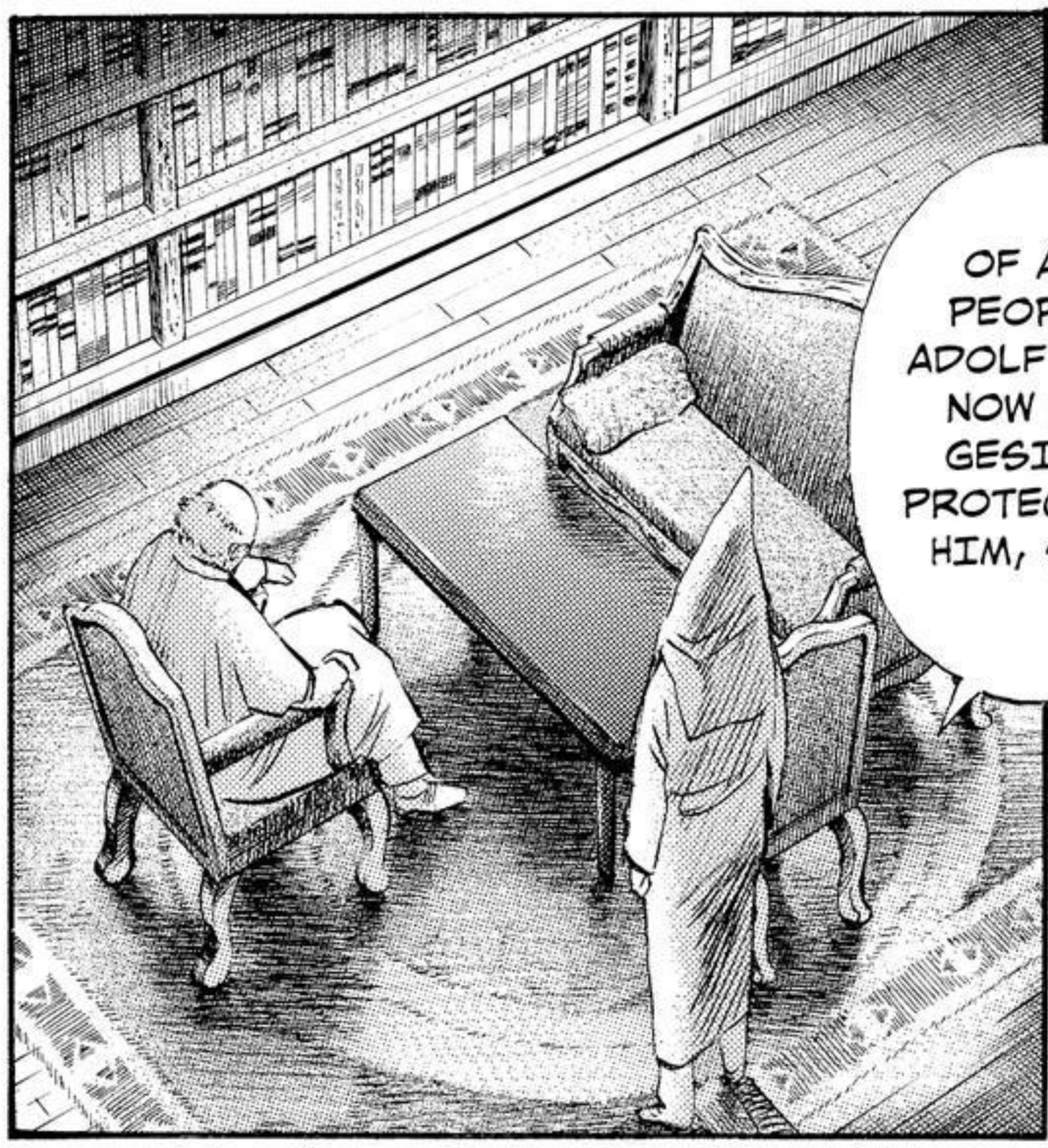
IF WE DON'T HURRY, MY WIFE AND SON WILL BE *KILLED*...!!

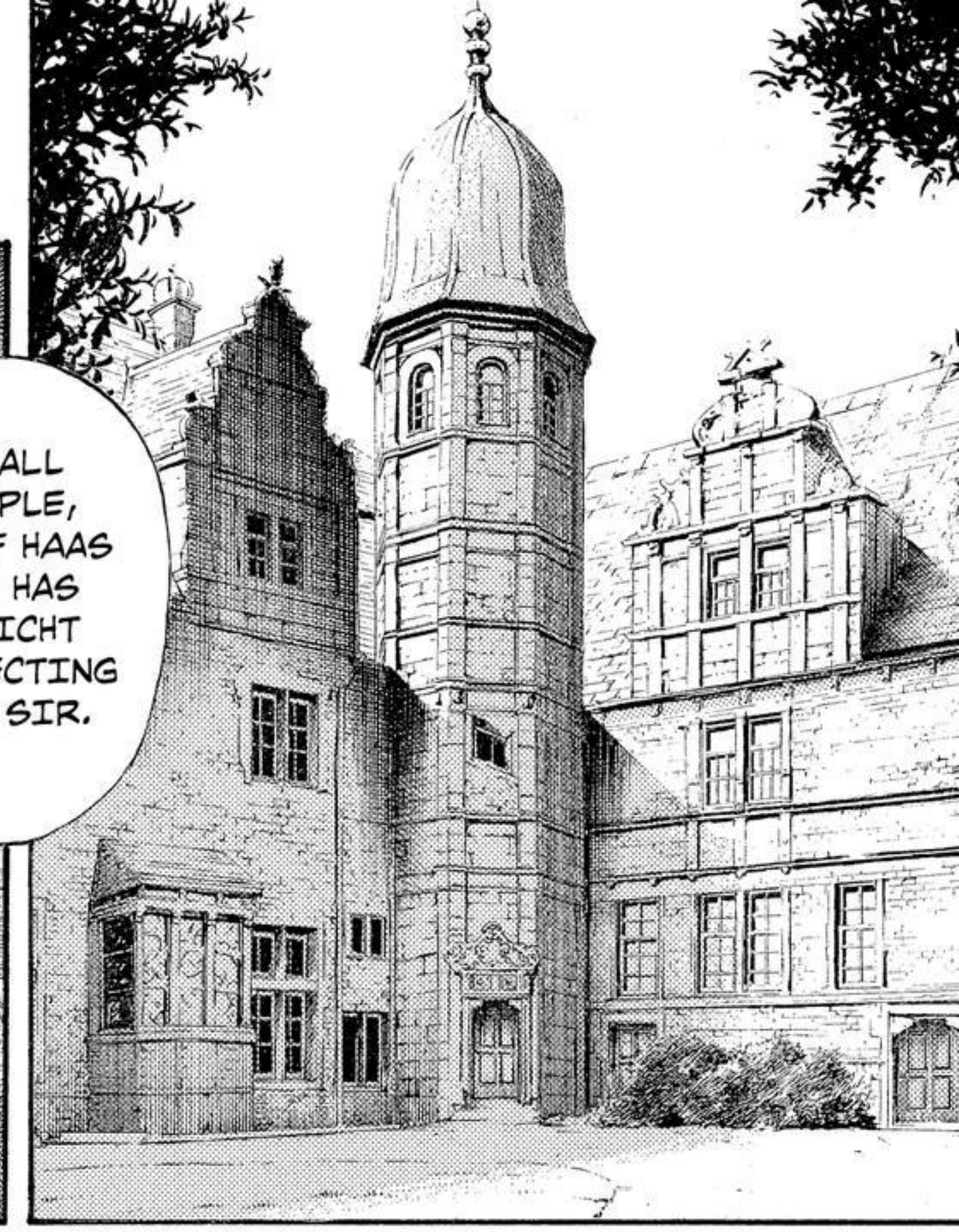
LISTEN, I'LL TESTIFY...
JUST PUT ME IN THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM, *PLEASE*...

I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH. I'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY...
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, MR. HAAS...

...WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS WE CAN...

BUT RIGHT NOW...
WE'LL TAKE YOUR WIFE AND BOY INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...


OF ALL PEOPLE, ADOLF HAAS NOW HAS GESICHT PROTECTING HIM, SIR.



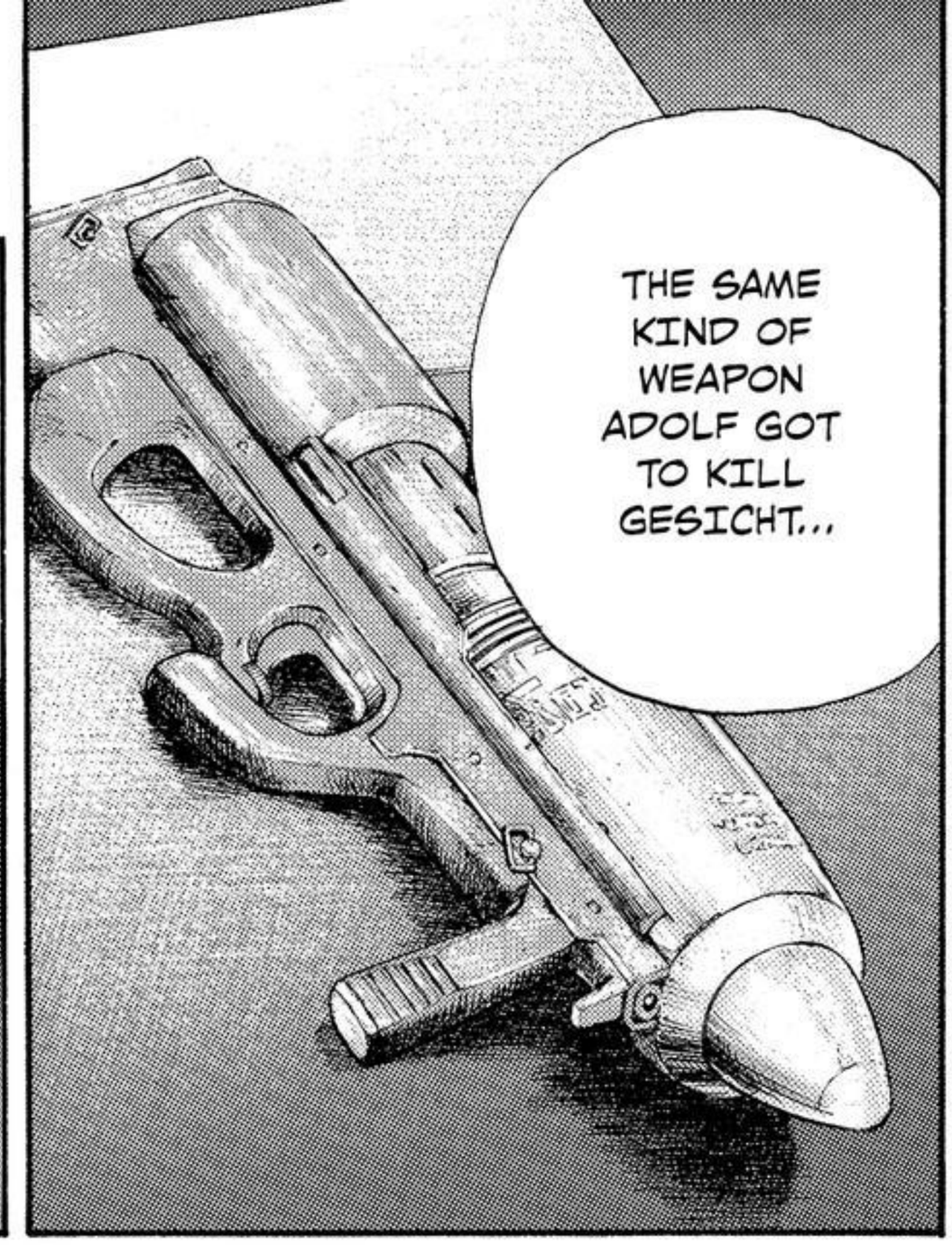
...BEFORE ADOLF EXPOSES OUR GROUP TO THE PUBLIC.
KR
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, SIR...

WELL, WELL...
WHAT AN IRONIC TURN OF EVENTS...

CHAK
USE THIS...

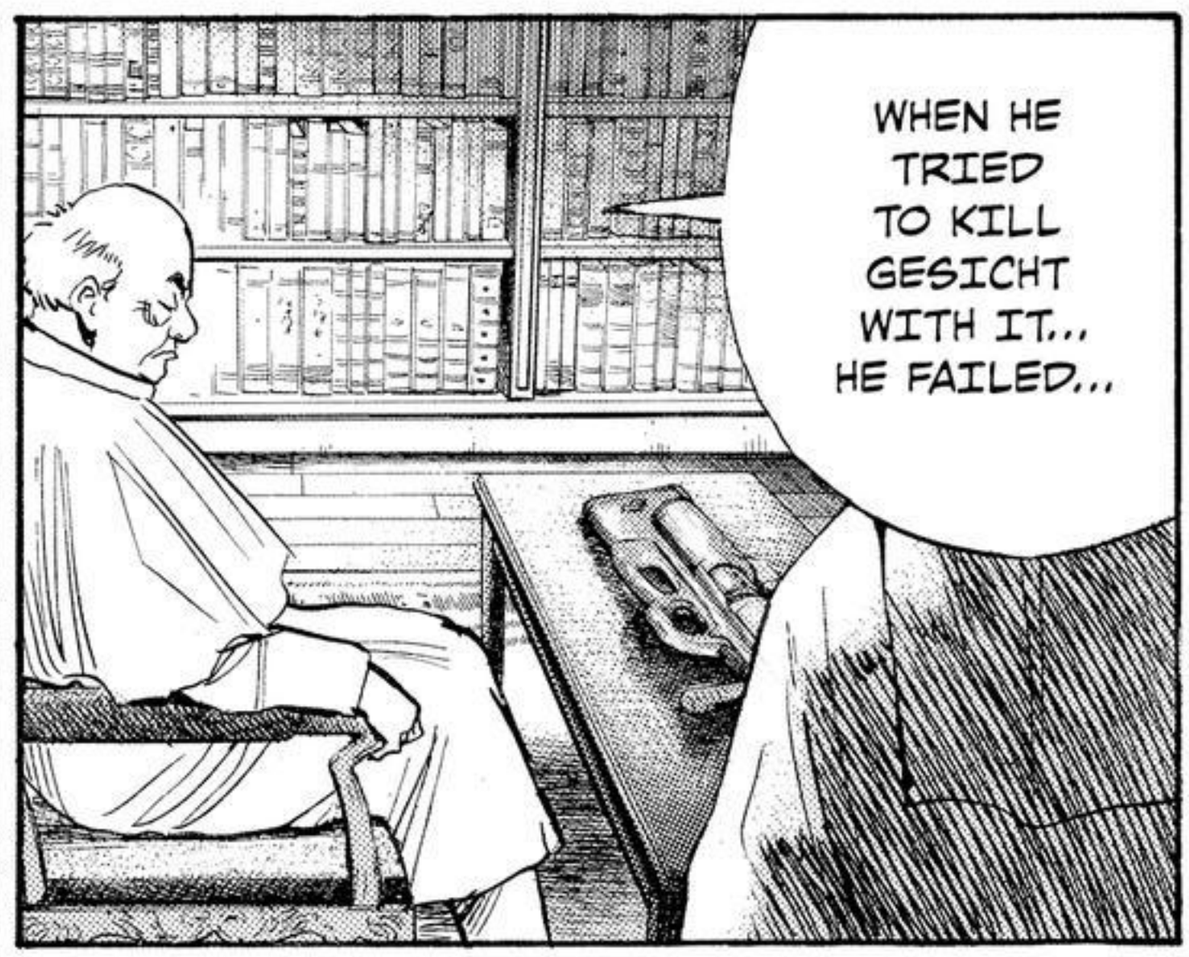
KR

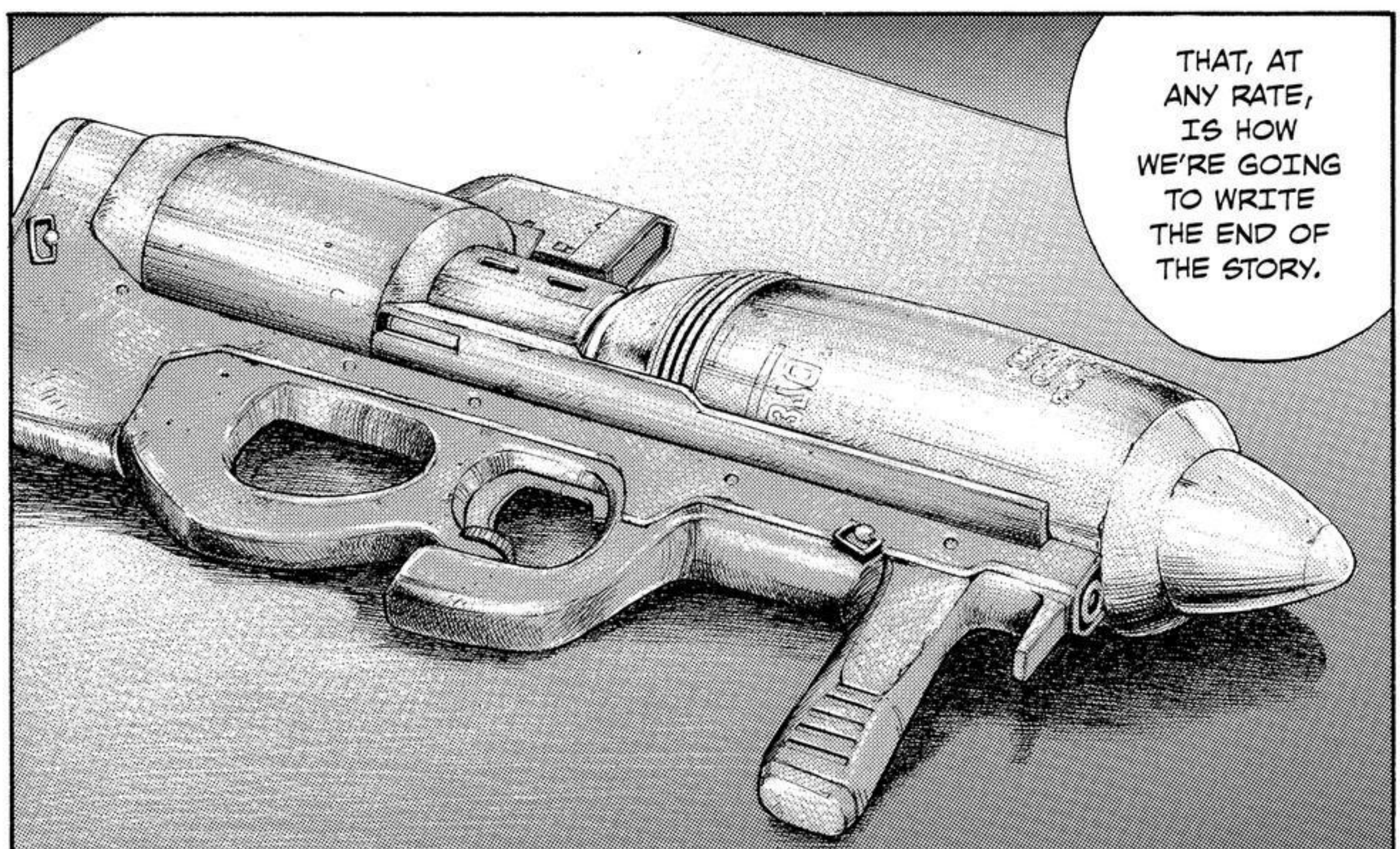
AND NOT ONLY THAT...
HE ACTUALLY BOUGHT *TWO* OF THEM.


THE SAME KIND OF WEAPON ADOLF GOT TO KILL GESICHT...

SIR... THAT'S...
KR

AND THEY *BOTH DIED*...


WHEN HE TRIED TO KILL GESICHT WITH IT... HE FAILED...


THAT, AT ANY RATE, IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO WRITE THE END OF THE STORY.

THE SAFE HOUSE IS RIGHT UP AHEAD, MR. HAAS.

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT MY WIFE AND HANS...?!
NO ONE'LL BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU THERE.

WHEW...

THEY'RE IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY TOO, AND ON THEIR WAY HERE...

NO. I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HIM.

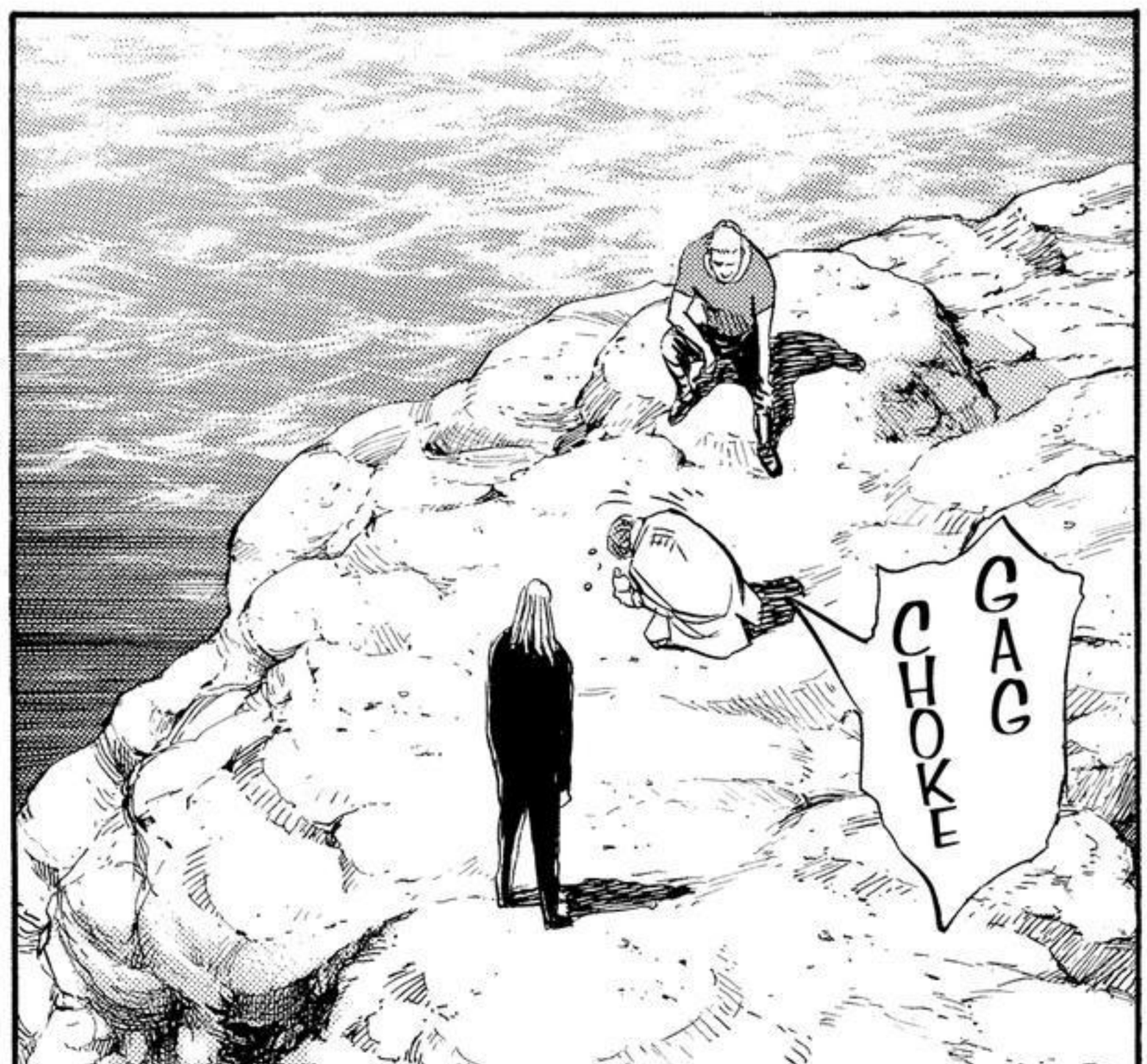
ANY WORD ON PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?

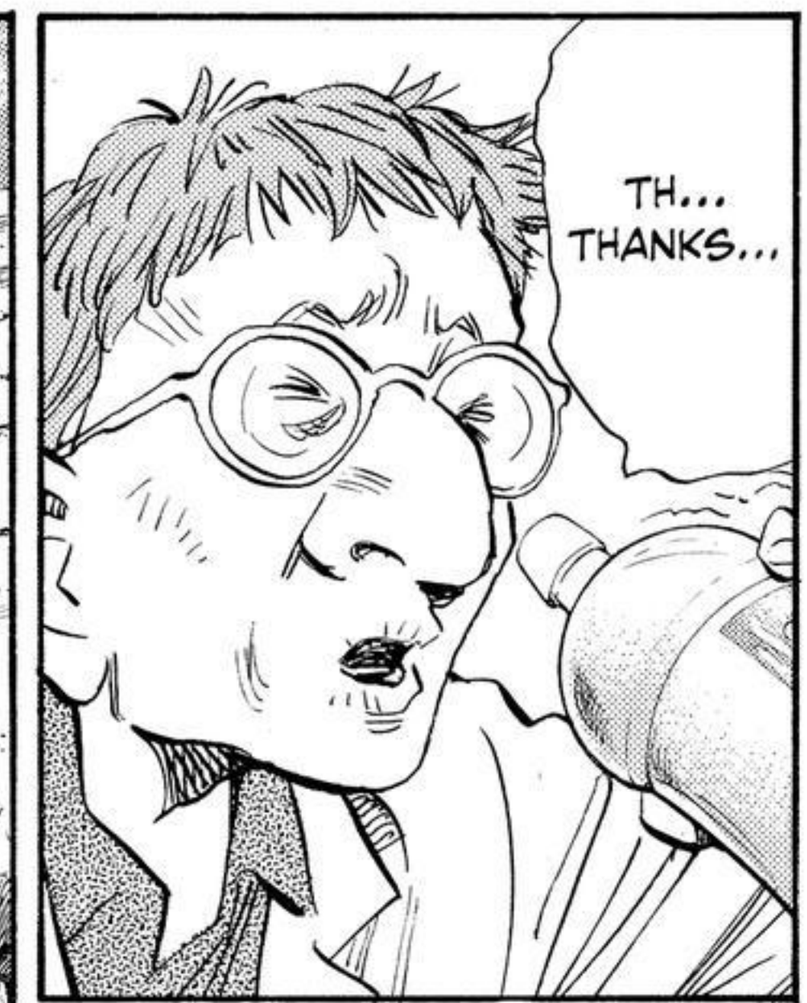
...

GREECE

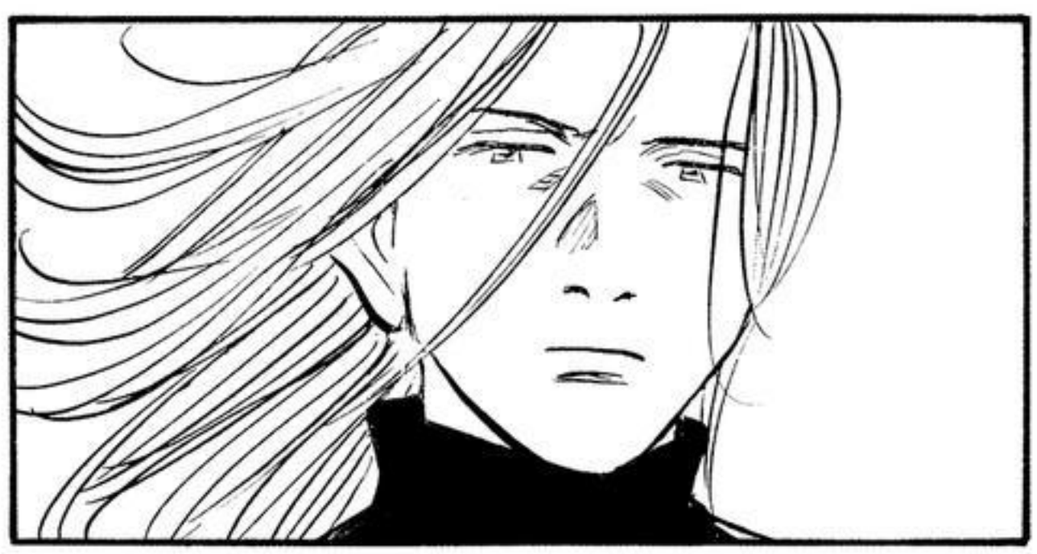
HERE, HAVE SOME WATER, PROFESSOR ...

THIS IS A LITTLE FAR TO FLY A HUMAN BEING, YA KNOW.


GAG
CHOKE


TH... THANKS...

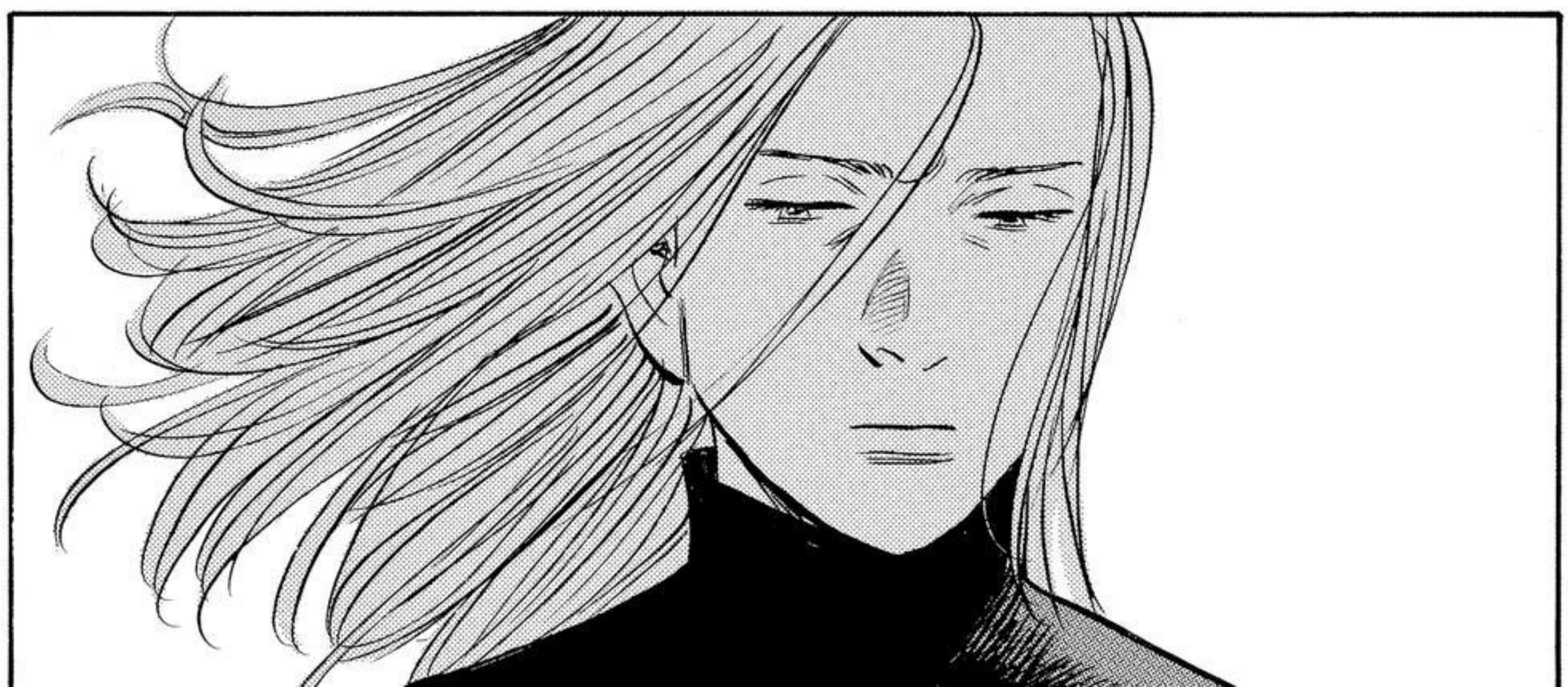
YOU DON'T LIKE FIGHTING, SO YOU'RE LEAVING HIM WITH ME, HUH?

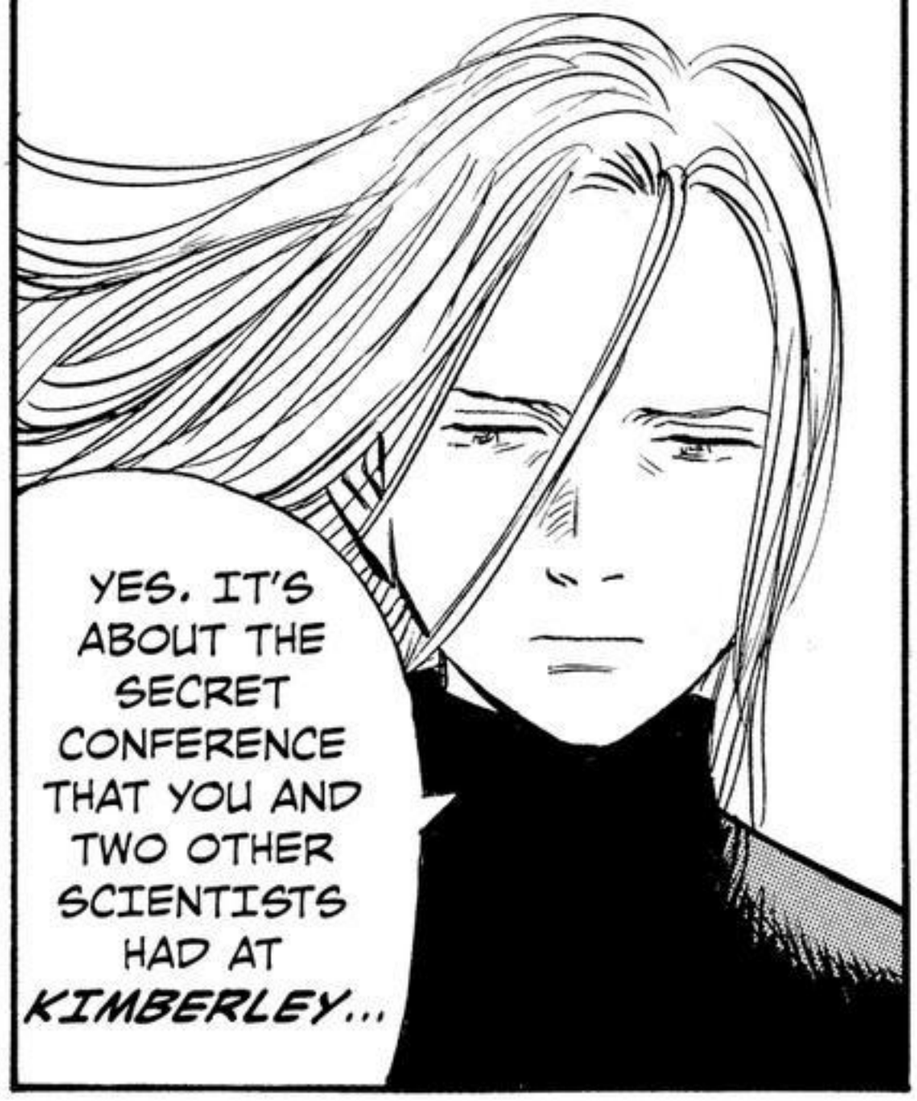


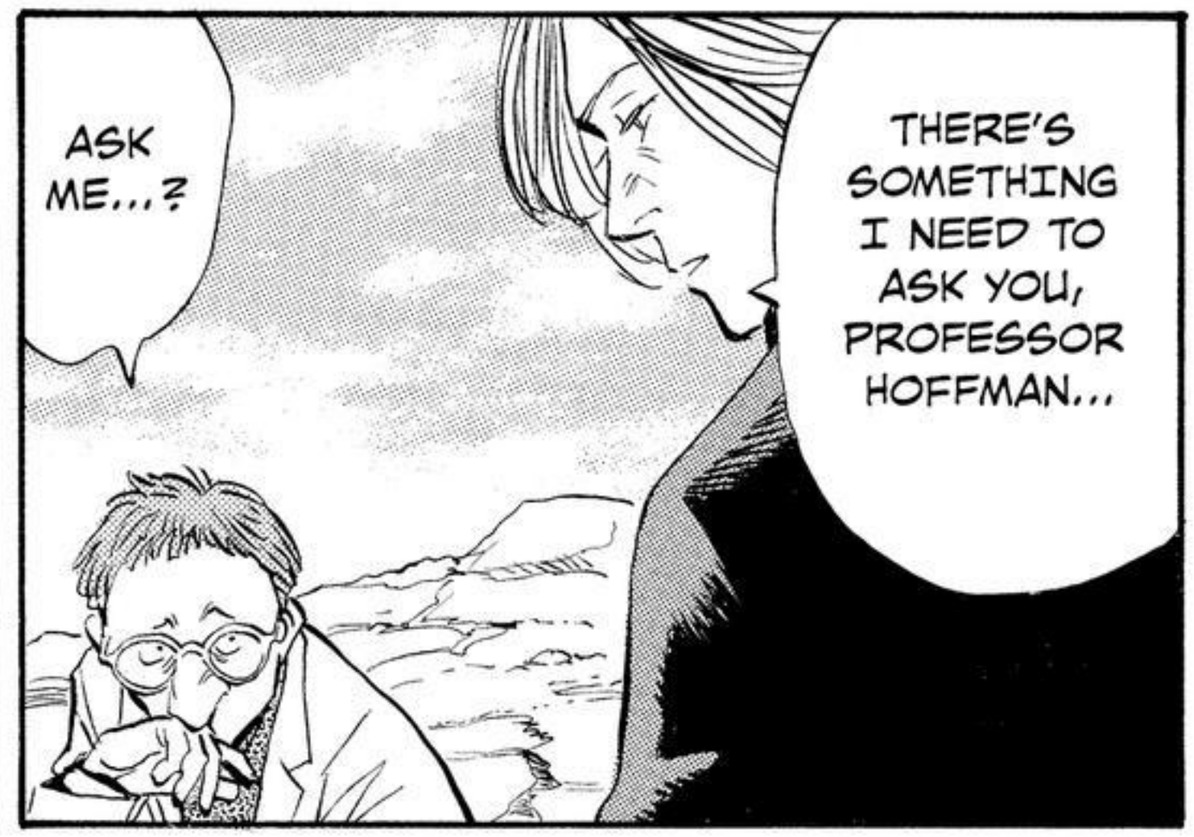
I BROUGHT HIM HERE FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION...
GASP
CHOKE

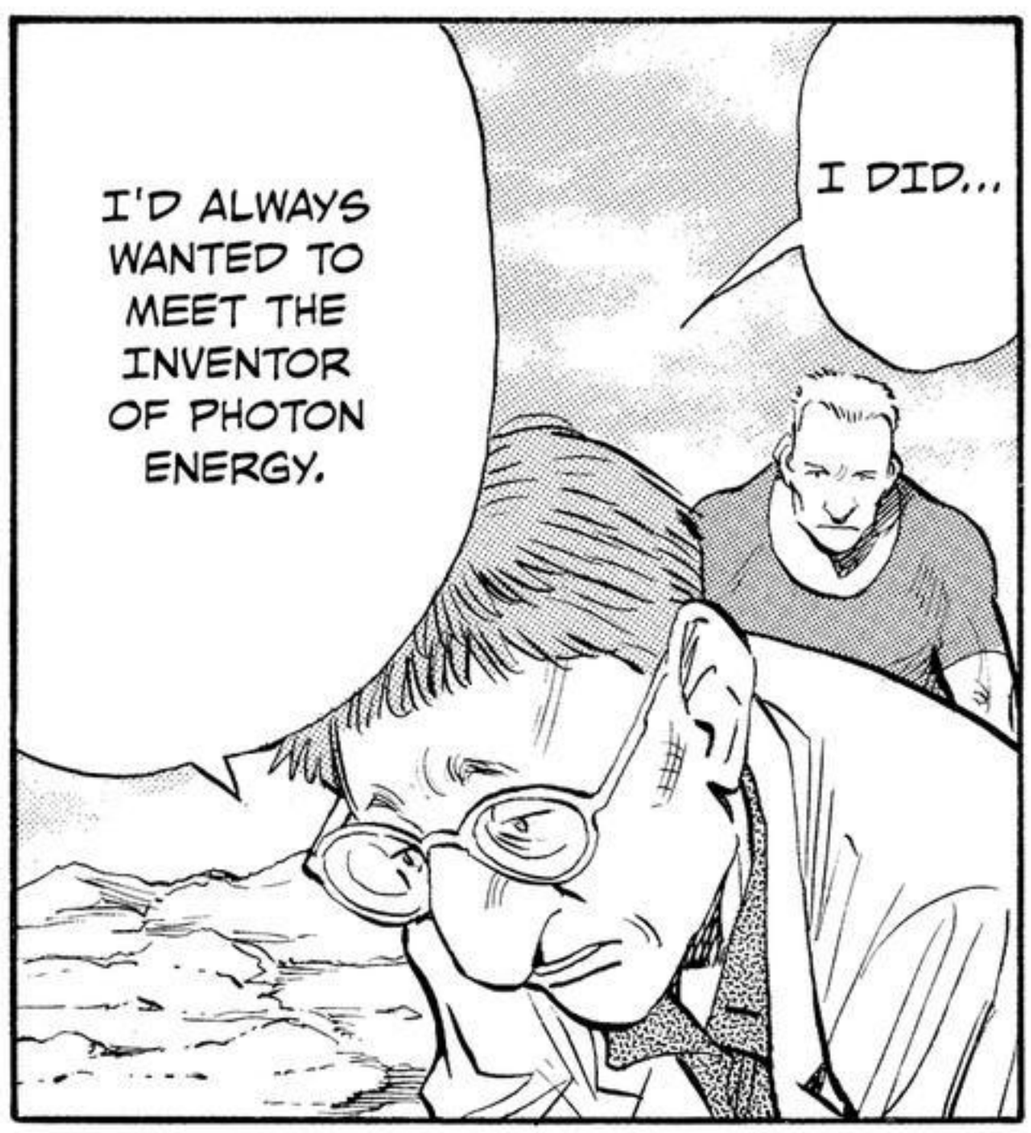
...MAKES ME WONDER HOW MUCH I CAN RELY ON YOU.
BUT SEEING HOW YOU'RE STILL RUNNING AWAY, EPSILON, EVEN AFTER YOUR CREATOR'S BEEN KILLED...

...!!
FINE... COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE.
WITH SO MUCH PREY IN ONE PLACE, OUR ADVERSARY'S BOUND TO SHOW HIMSELF NOW.



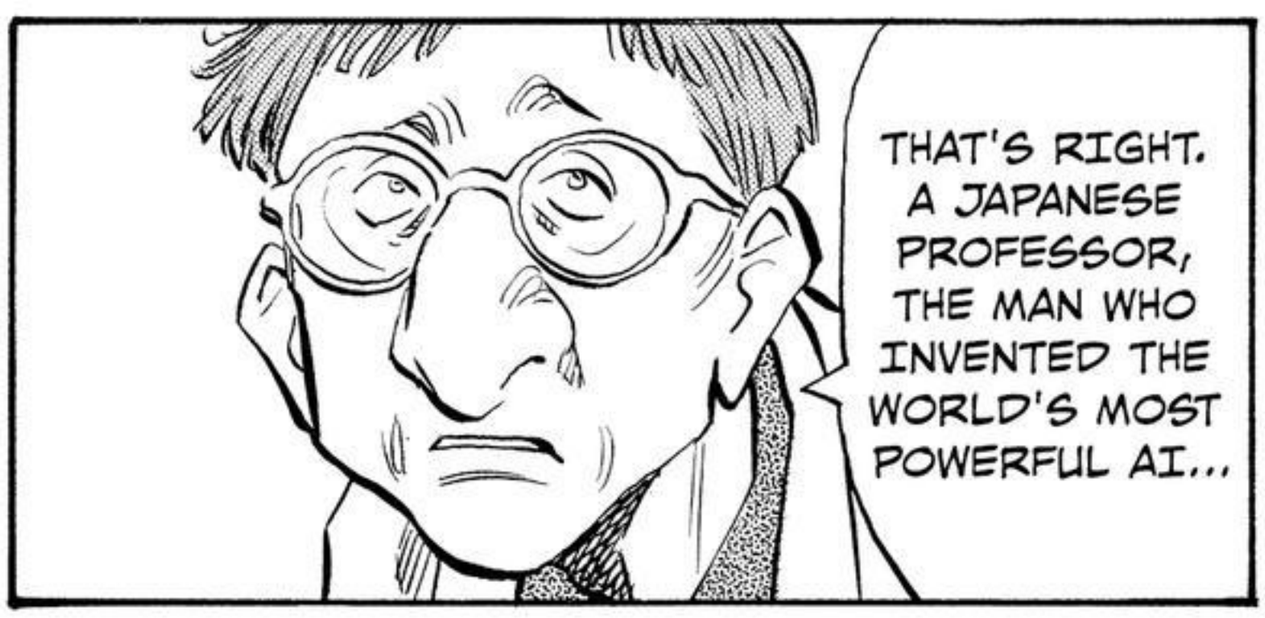

YES. IT'S ABOUT THE SECRET CONFERENCE THAT YOU AND TWO OTHER SCIENTISTS HAD AT *KIMBERLEY*...

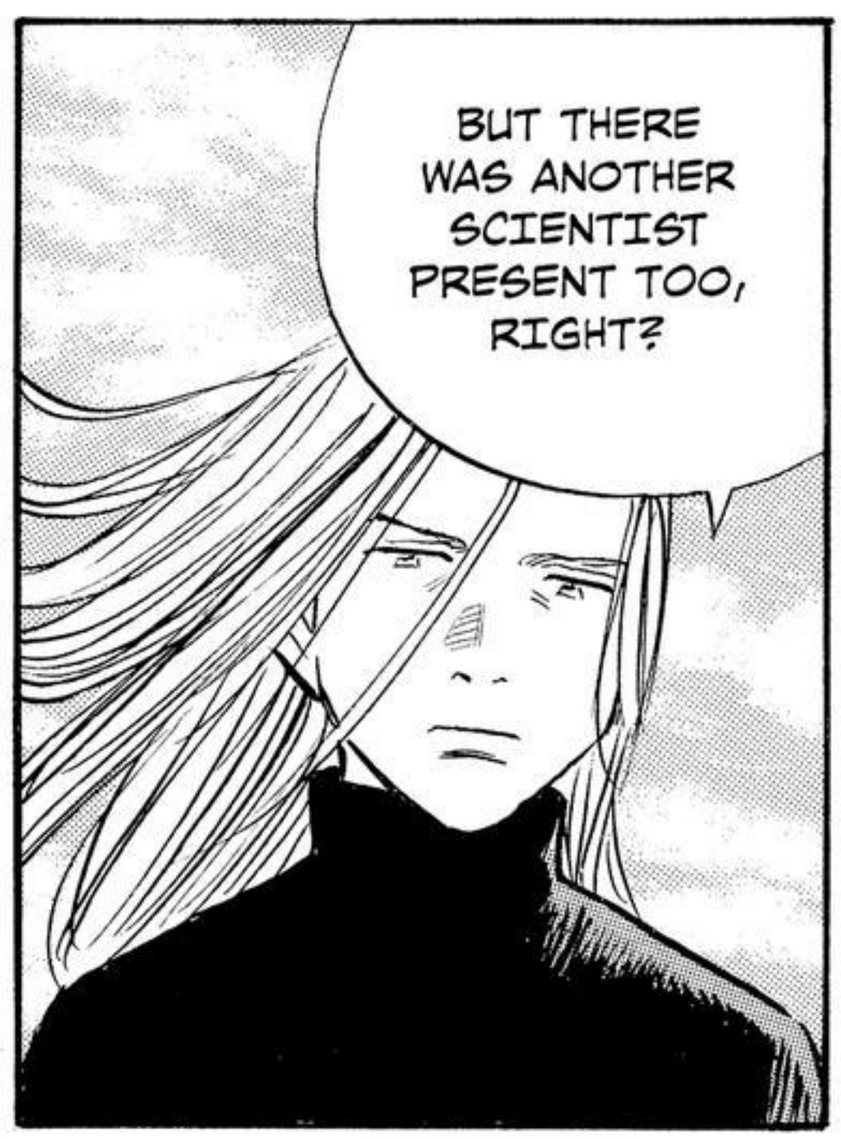

ASK ME...?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN...

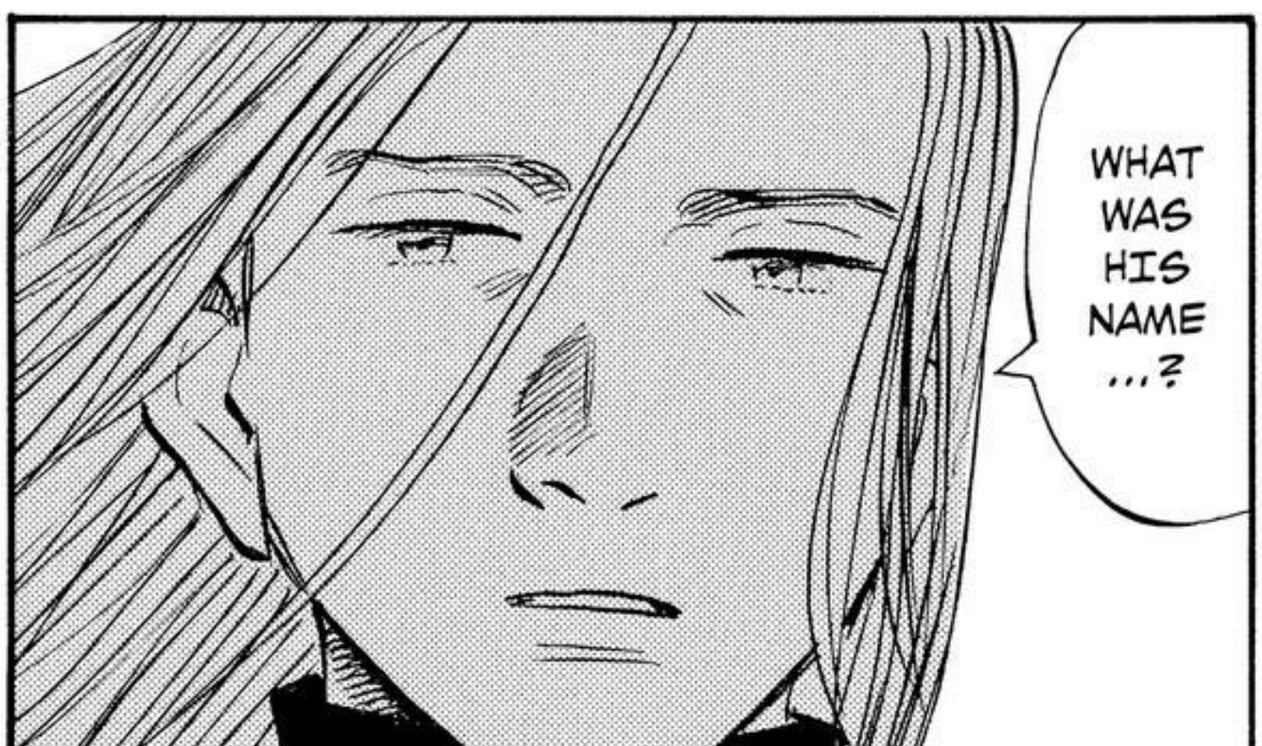

I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET THE INVENTOR OF PHOTON ENERGY.
I DID...

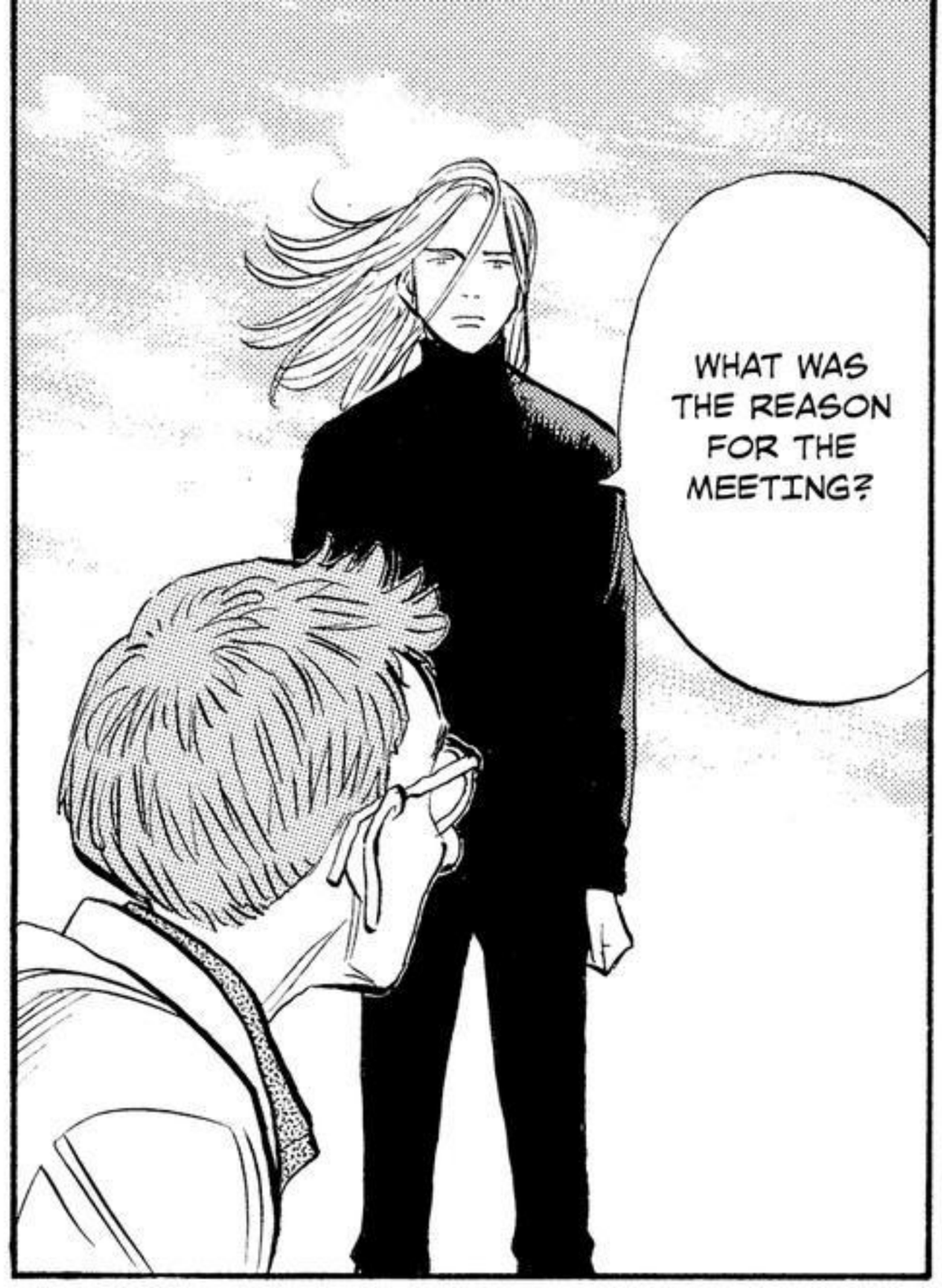
AT KIMBERLEY ...?

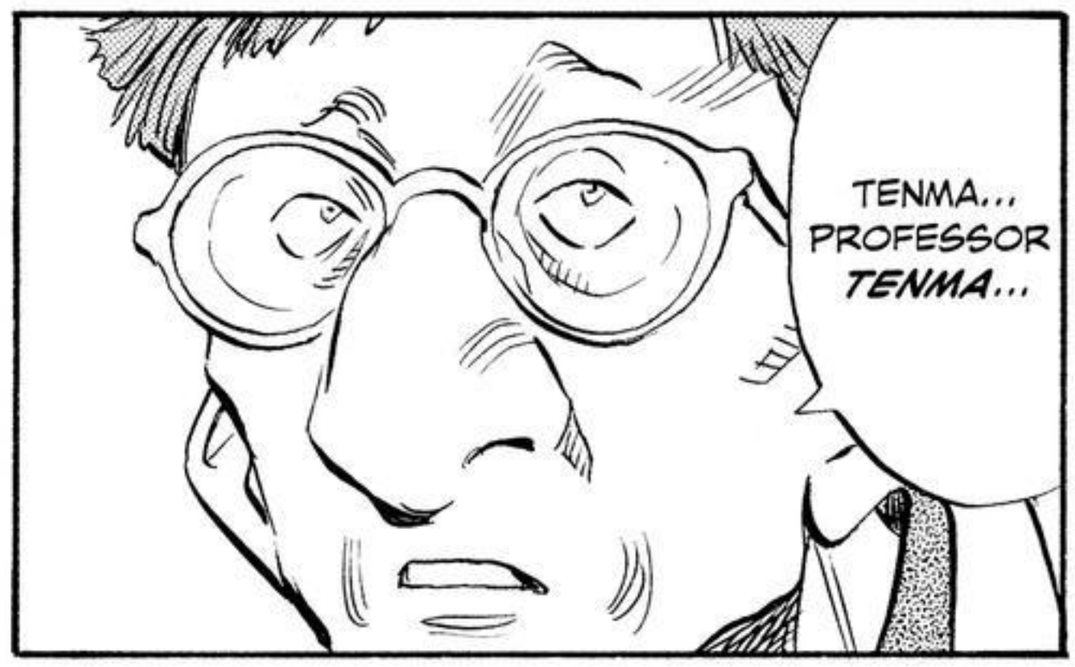
YOU MET PROFESSOR RONALD NEWTON-HOWARD THERE, RIGHT?
YES. SEVEN YEARS AGO...

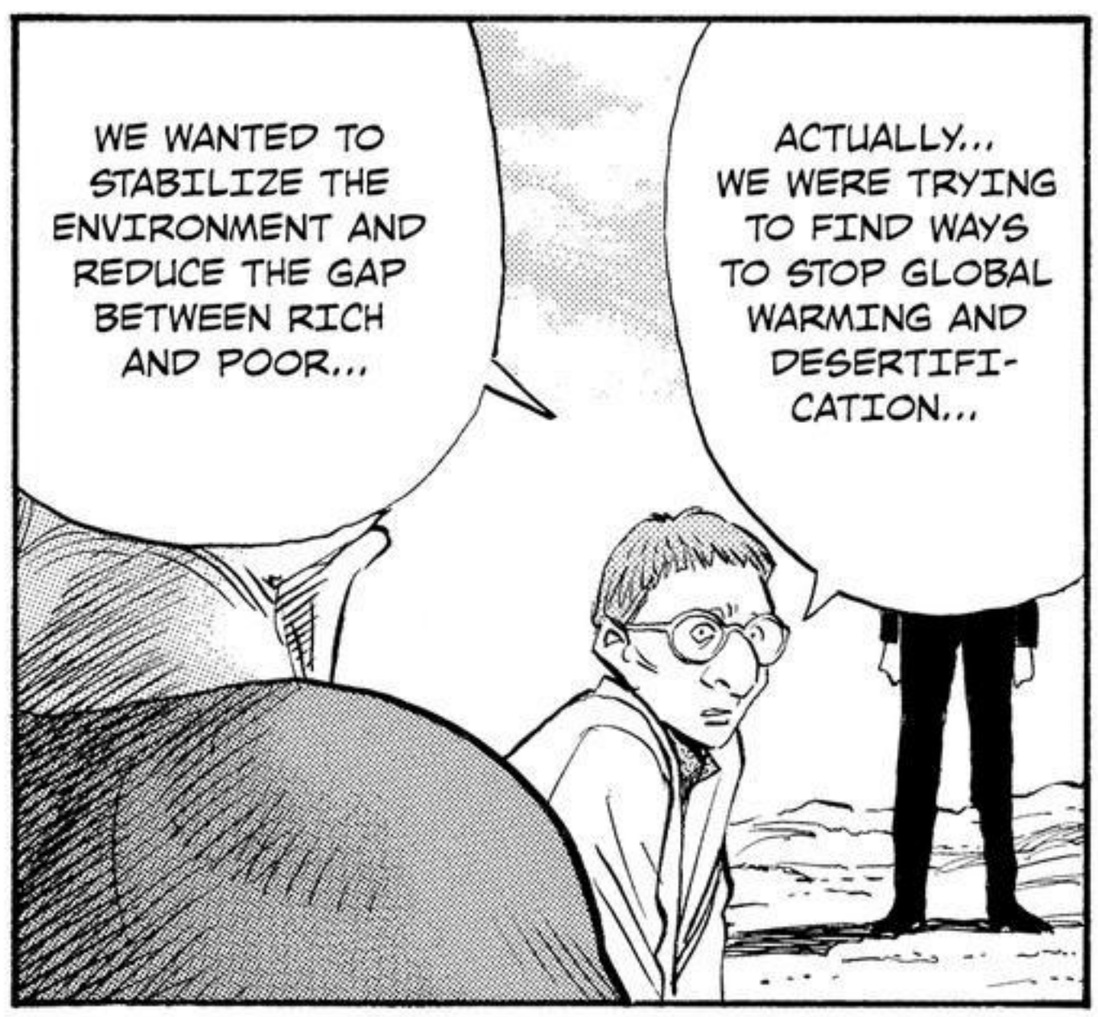

THAT'S RIGHT. A JAPANESE PROFESSOR, THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL AI...


BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER SCIENTIST PRESENT TOO, RIGHT?


WHAT WAS HIS NAME ...?

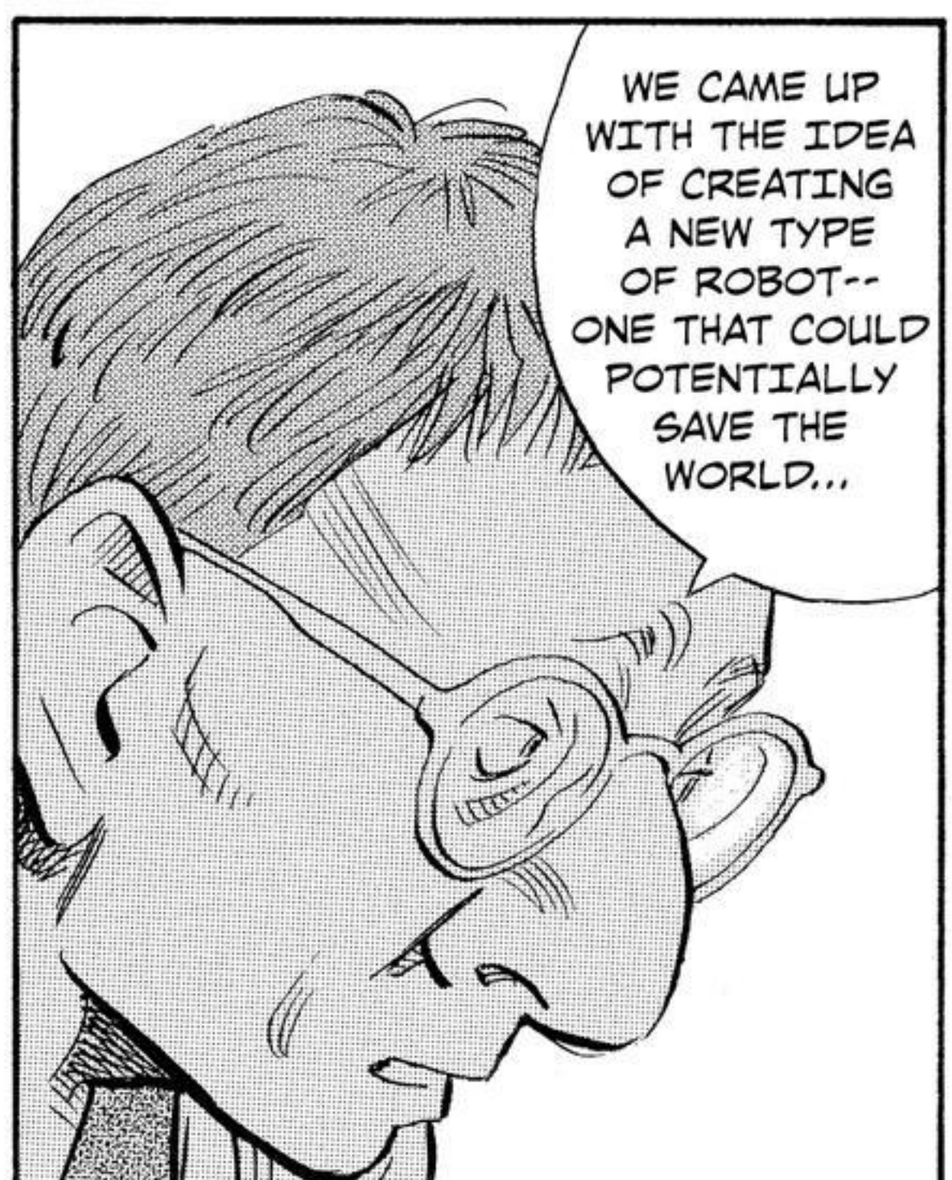

WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE MEETING?


TENMA... PROFESSOR *TENMA*...


WE WANTED TO STABILIZE THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR...
ACTUALLY... WE WERE TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING AND DESERTIFI-CATION...

WE WANTED TO EXCHANGE OUR RESEARCH...

TO SHARE AND GO PUBLIC...?


WE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF CREATING A NEW TYPE OF ROBOT-- ONE THAT COULD POTENTIALLY SAVE THE WORLD...

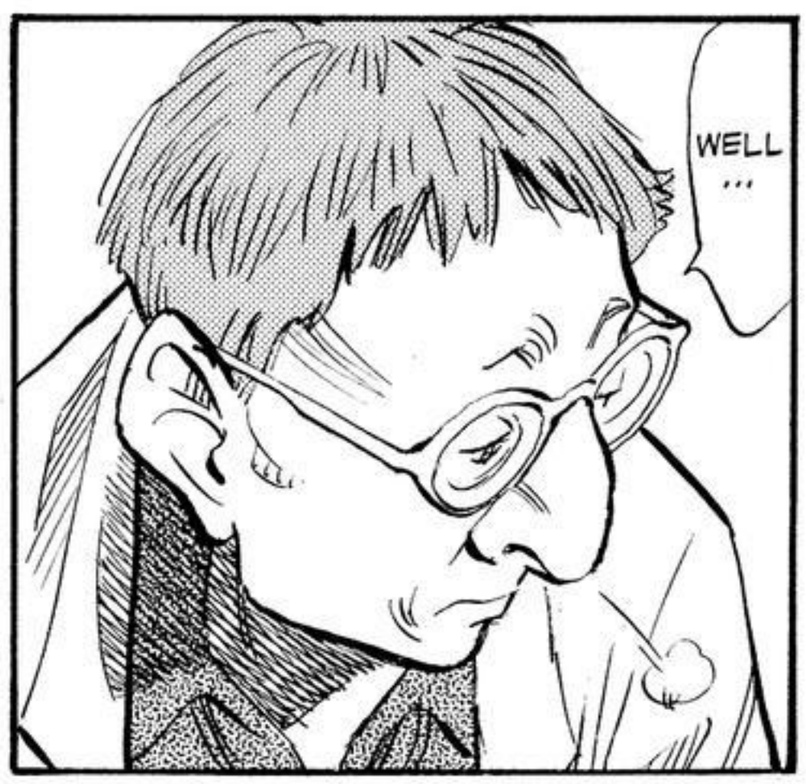
SO YOU EXCHANGED NOTES ON YOUR RESEARCH...?

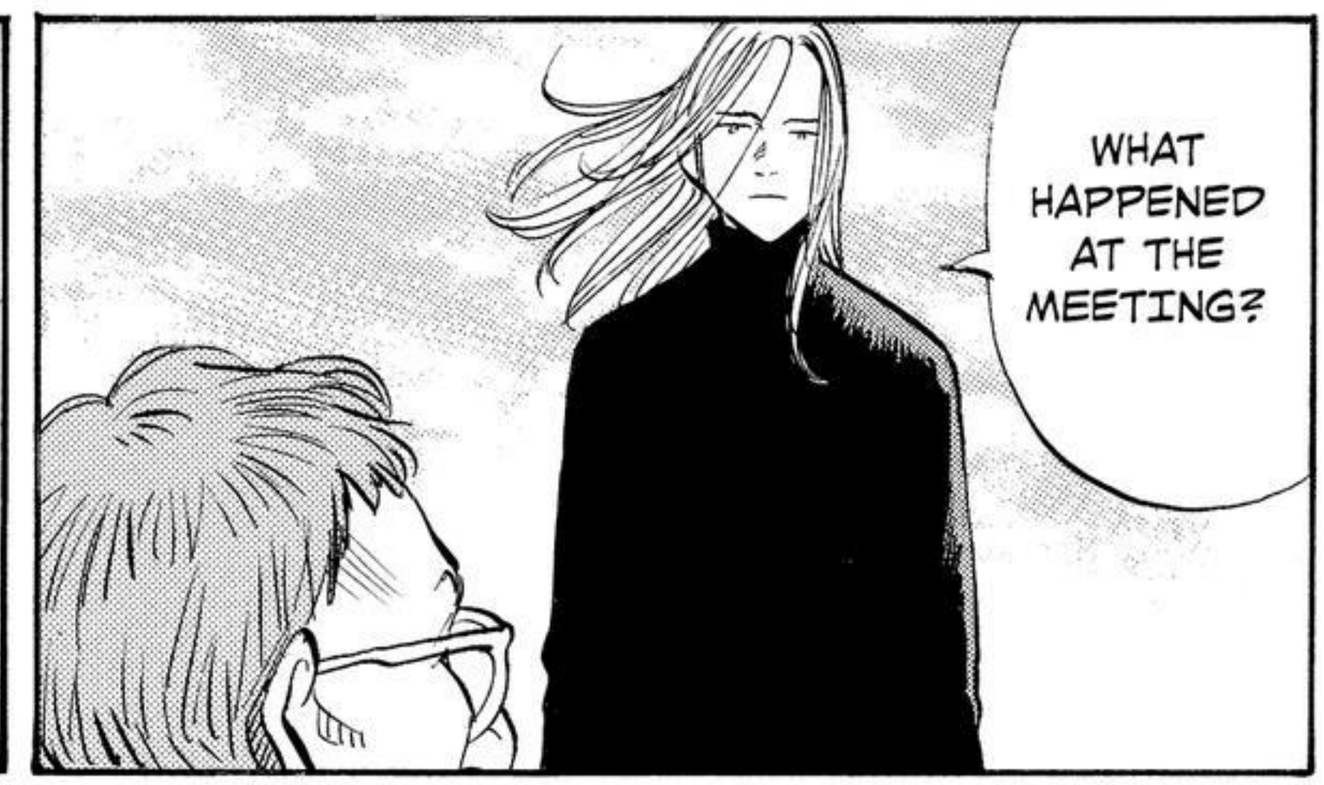
WE ALSO HOPED IT MIGHT END WAR FOREVER...

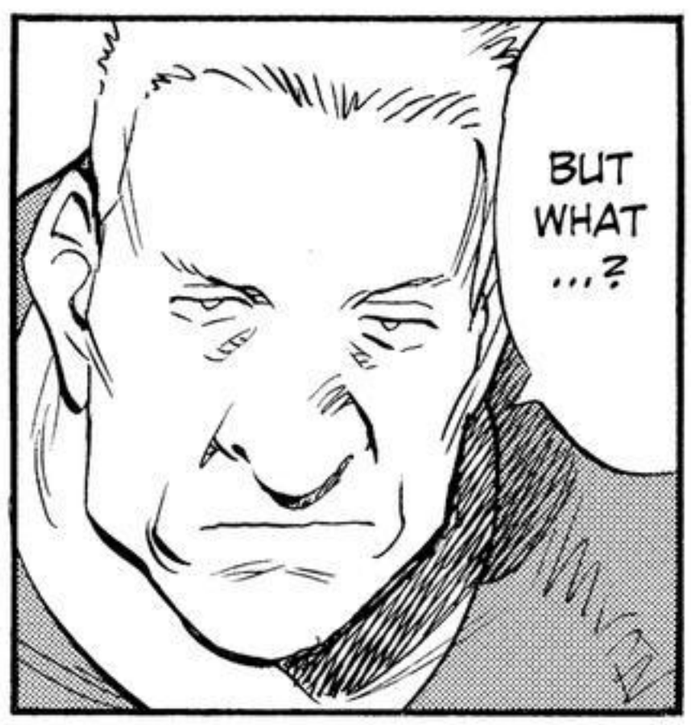
AND PROFESSOR TENMA, THE AUTHORITY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-- ALL GOT TOGETHER...

...PROFESSOR NEWTON-HOWARD, THE DISCOVERER OF PHOTON ENERGY...

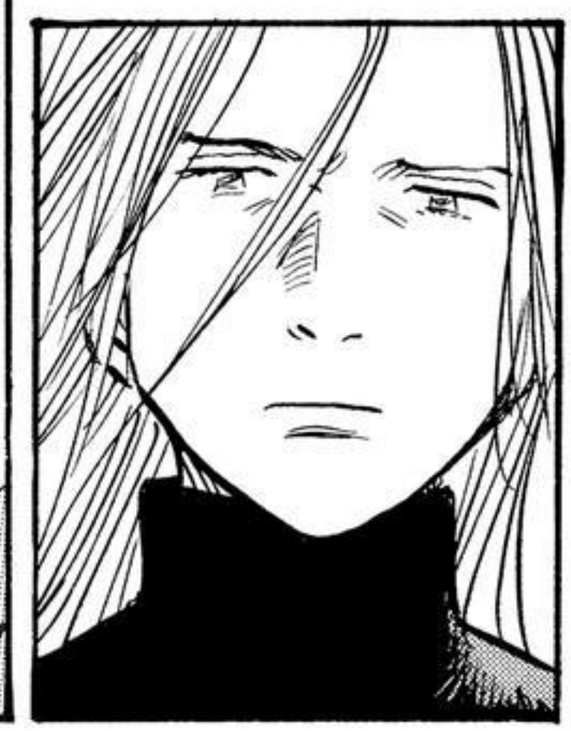
SO YOU, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN, THE INVENTOR OF ZERONIUM ...







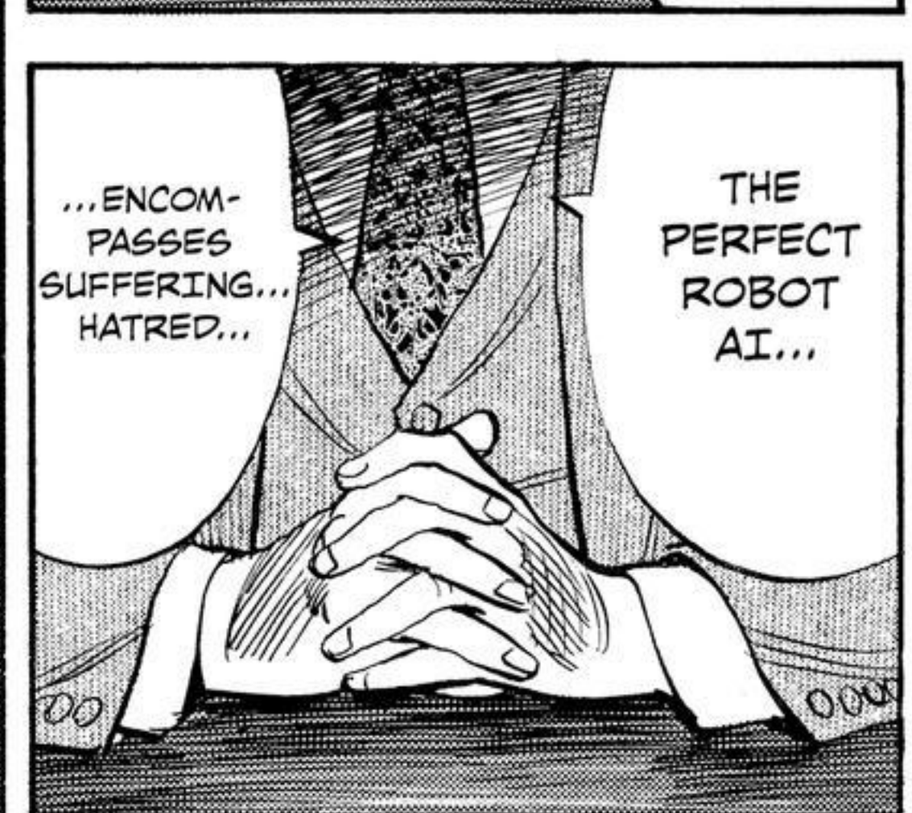
HERE'S WHAT HE SAID...



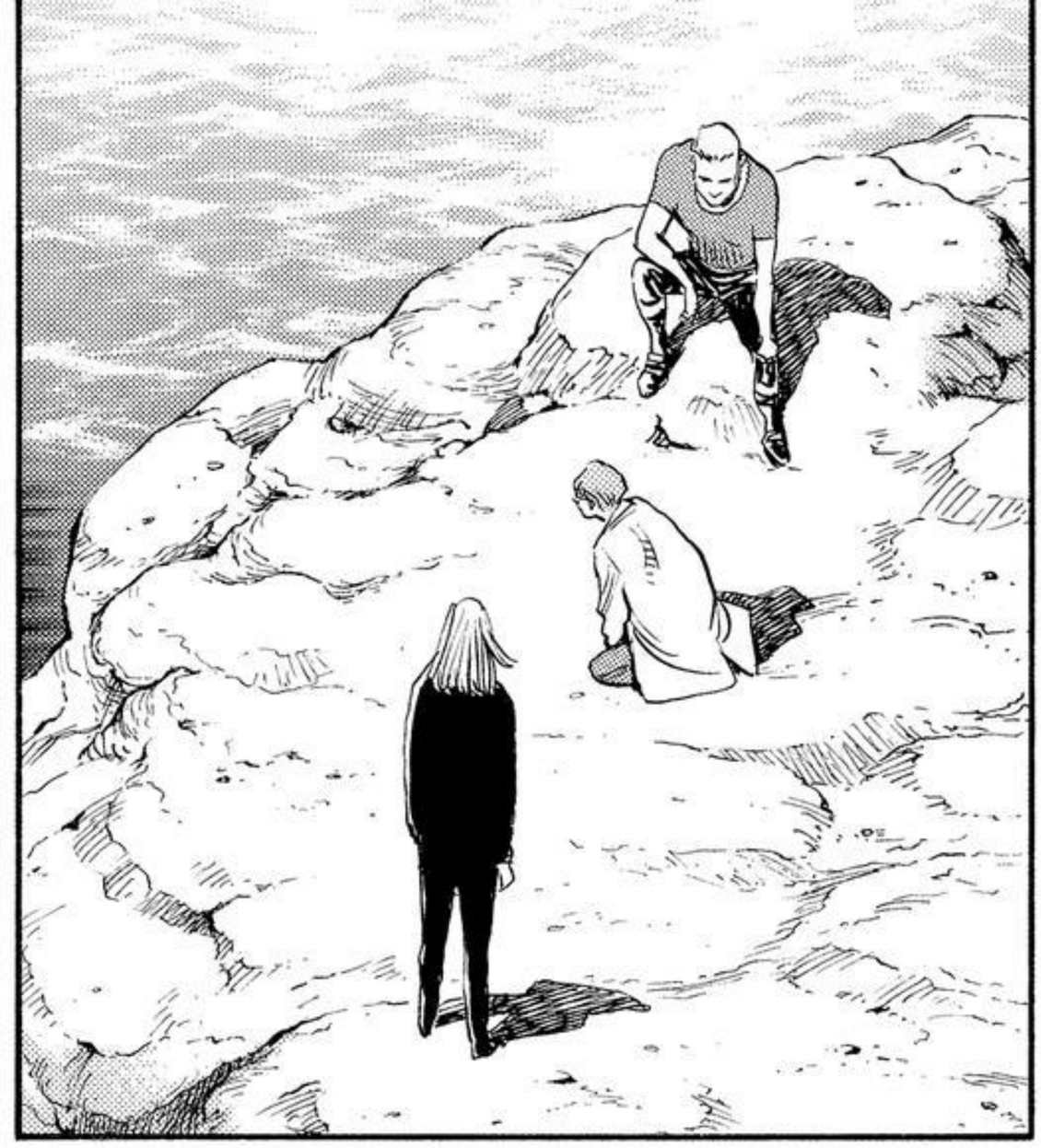
PERFECTION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE...

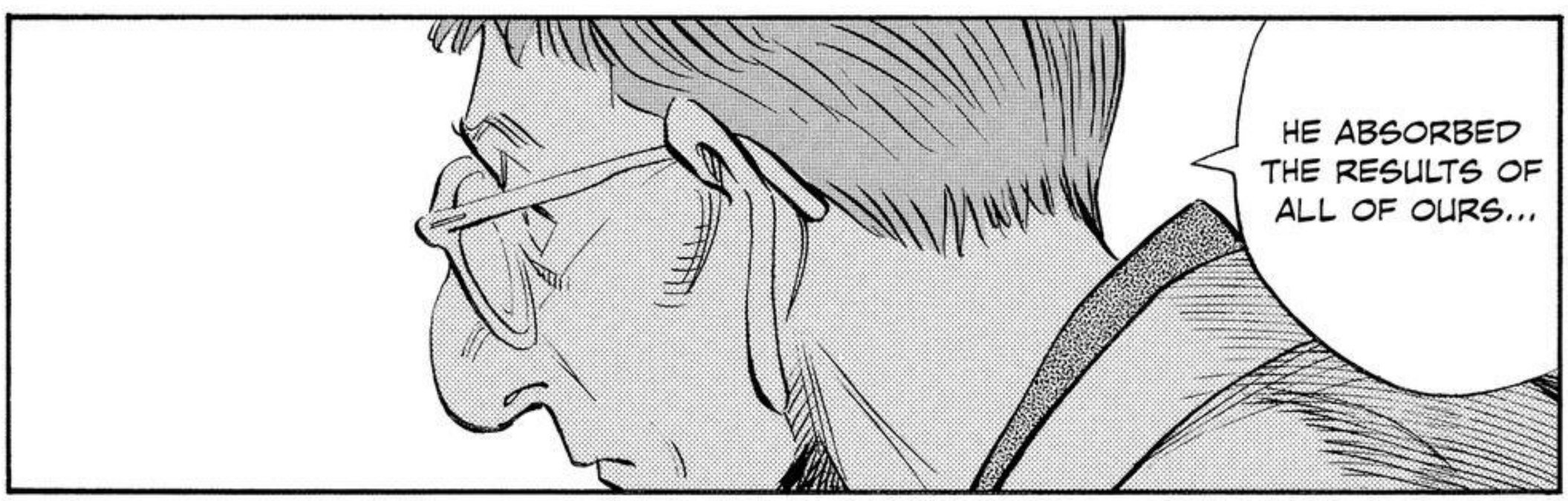
...AND THE CAPACITY TO MAKE MISTAKES.

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT TRULY *MEANS*?


...ENCOM-PASSES SUFFERING... HATRED...
THE PERFECT ROBOT AI...

BUT IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN INSTANT ...
IN THE END, HE DIDN'T DISCLOSE ANY OF HIS RESEARCH...



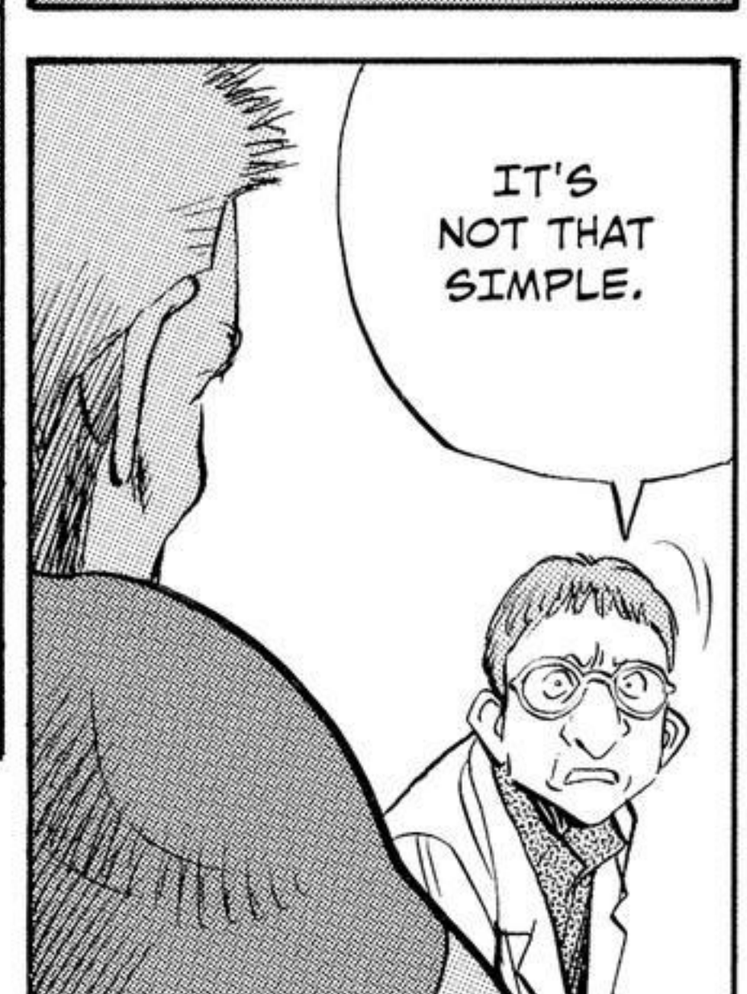

HE ABSORBED THE RESULTS OF ALL OF OURS...

BUT HE UNDERSTOOD IT *ALL* WITH JUST A GLANCE...

THERE'S ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE A PERSON LIKE HIM, AND THAT'S GENIUS...

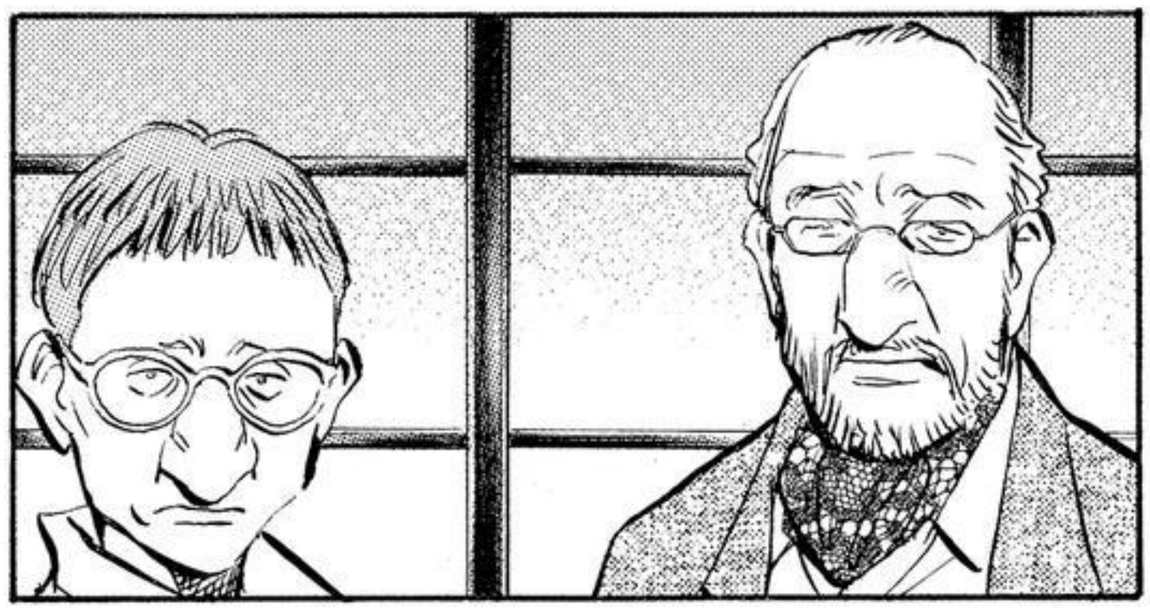
OUR RESEARCH WAS FAR TOO COMPLICATED FOR HIM TO SIMPLY RUN OFF WITH.

HE TOOK IT ALL AND RAN, HUH?

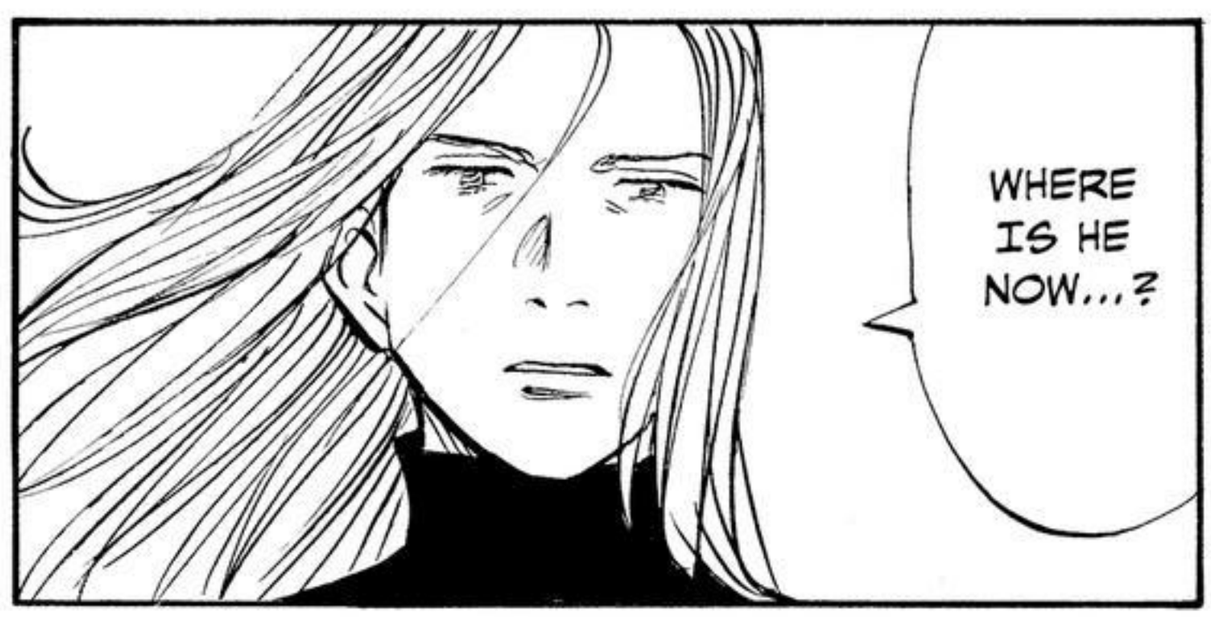

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

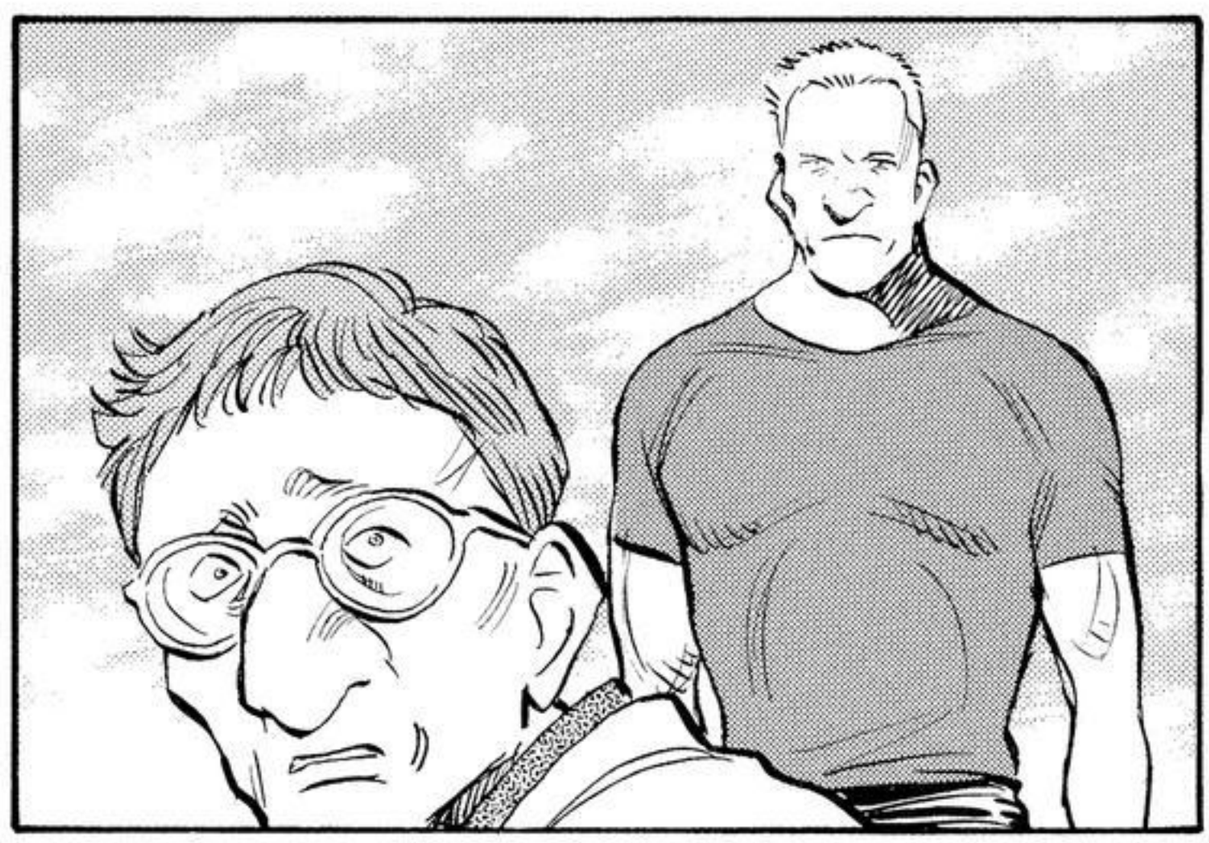
PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT HE'S ACHIEVED PERFECTION IN *NATURAL* HUMAN INTELLIGENCE...

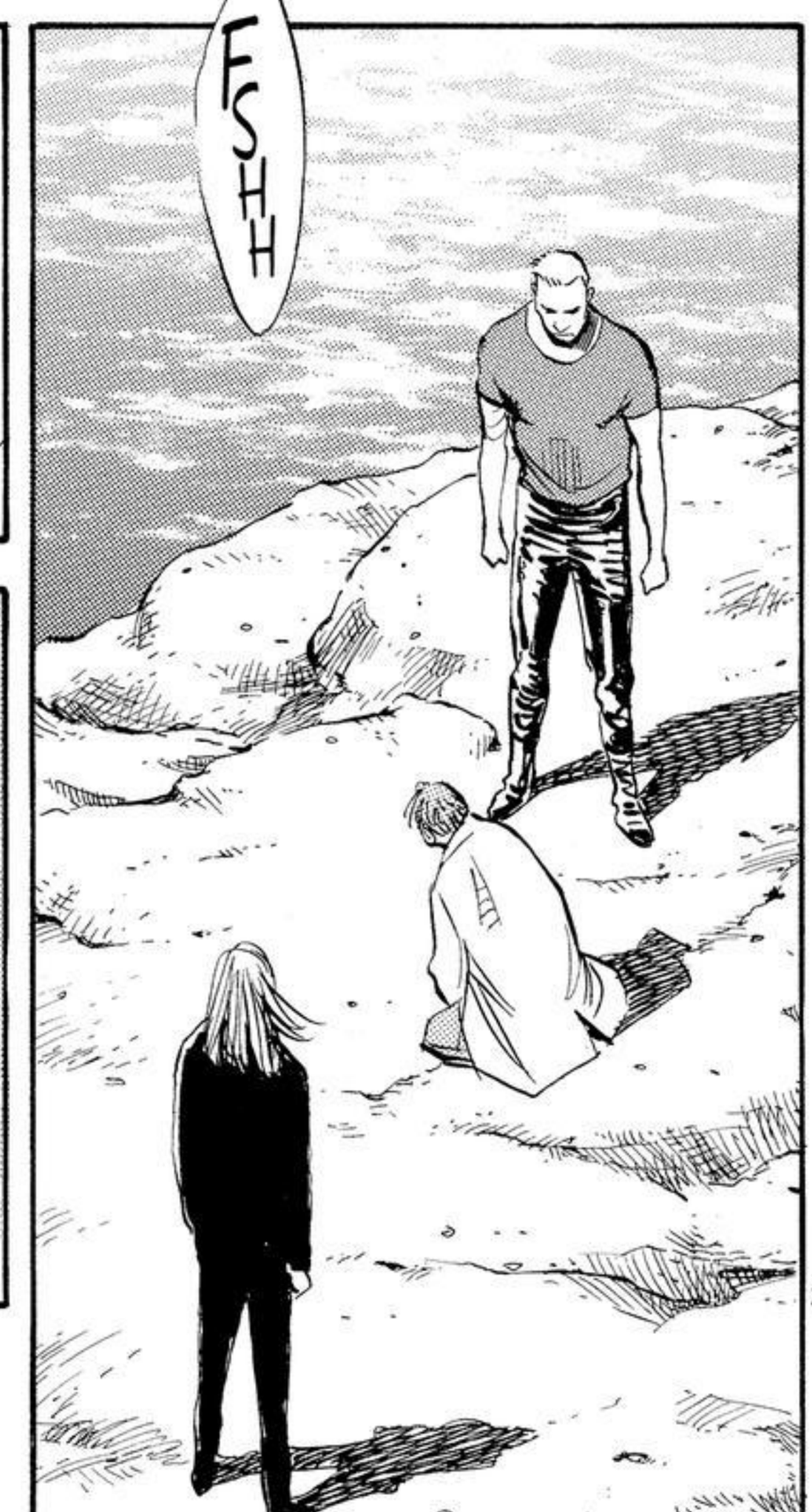
ACTUALLY ...



IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE...





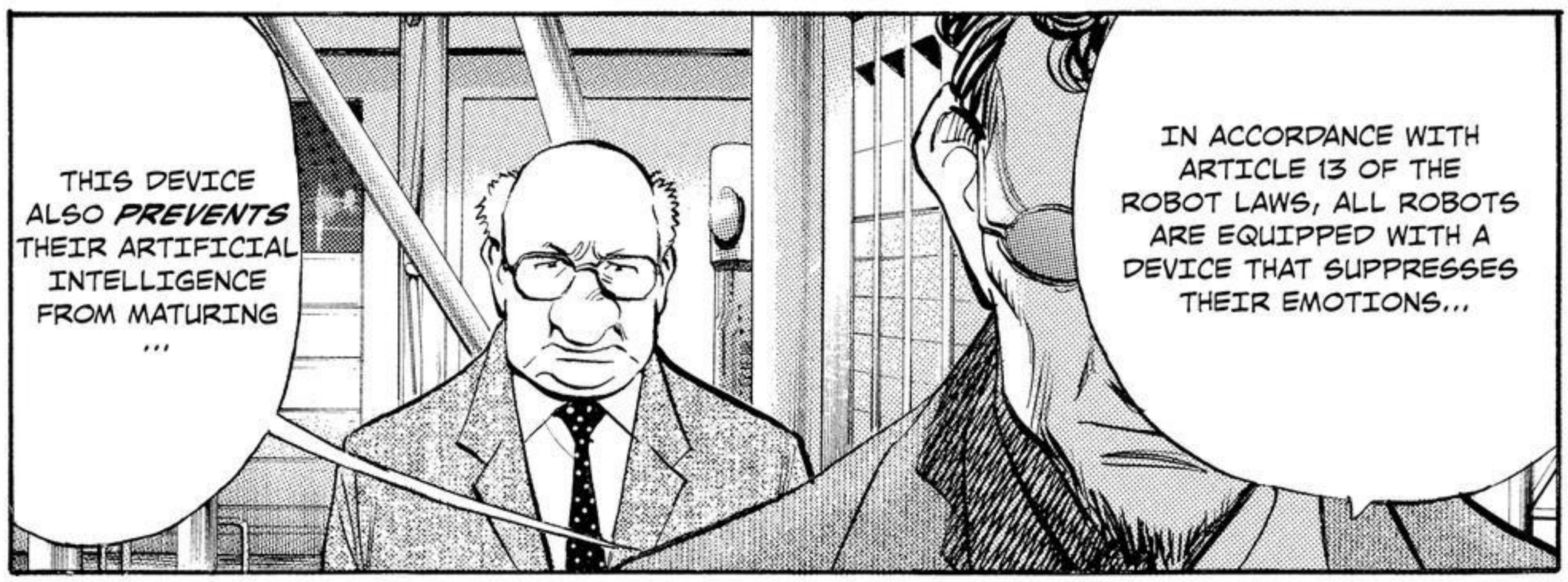


WHERE IS PROFESSOR TENMA, THE MAN WHO CREATED ATOM?

PROFESSOR TENMA...
THE NAME'S OCHANOMIZU.
I'VE BEEN APPOINTED YOUR SUCCESSOR AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...
...ISN'T SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN JUST CREATE...
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ...
I'M SAD TO SEE THAT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE IS LOSING THE CREATOR OF THE MOST ADVANCED AI EVER KNOWN.

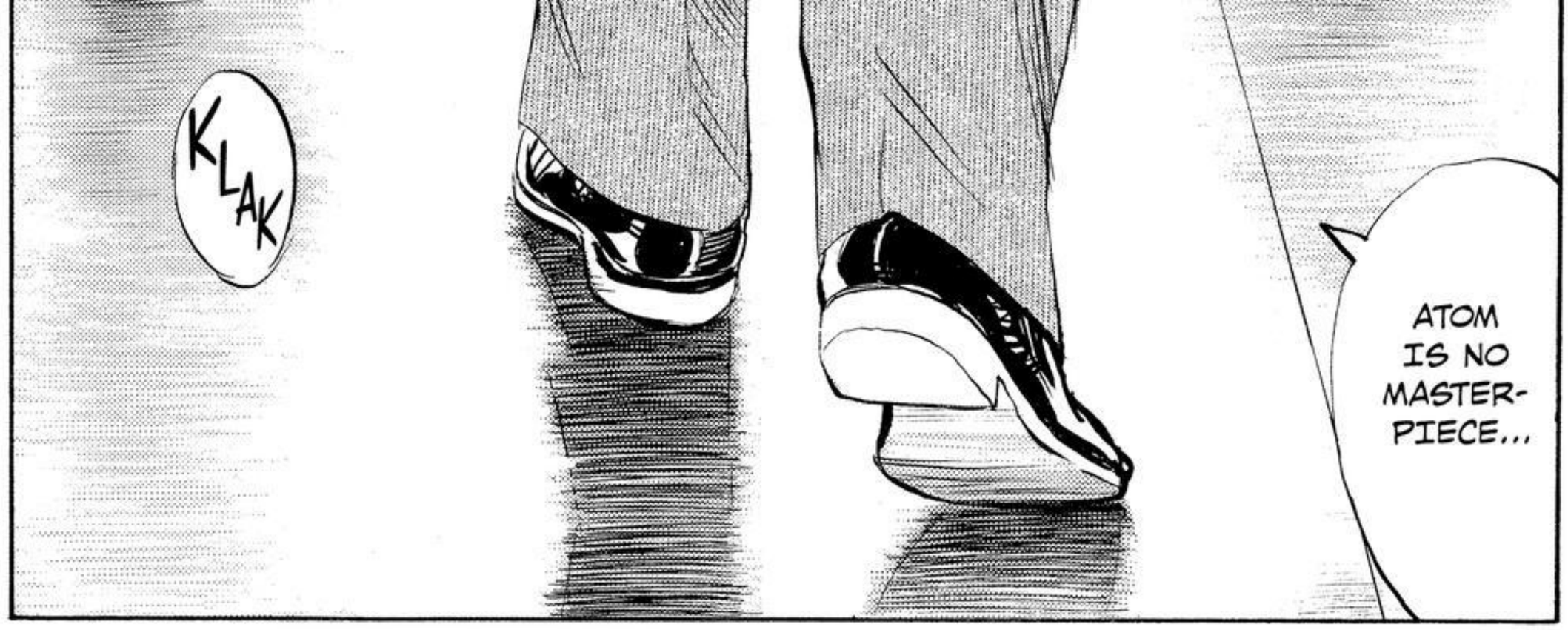
PROFOUND SADNESS AND FRUSTRATION ...
THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT STIMULATE AN ARTIFICIAL MIND.

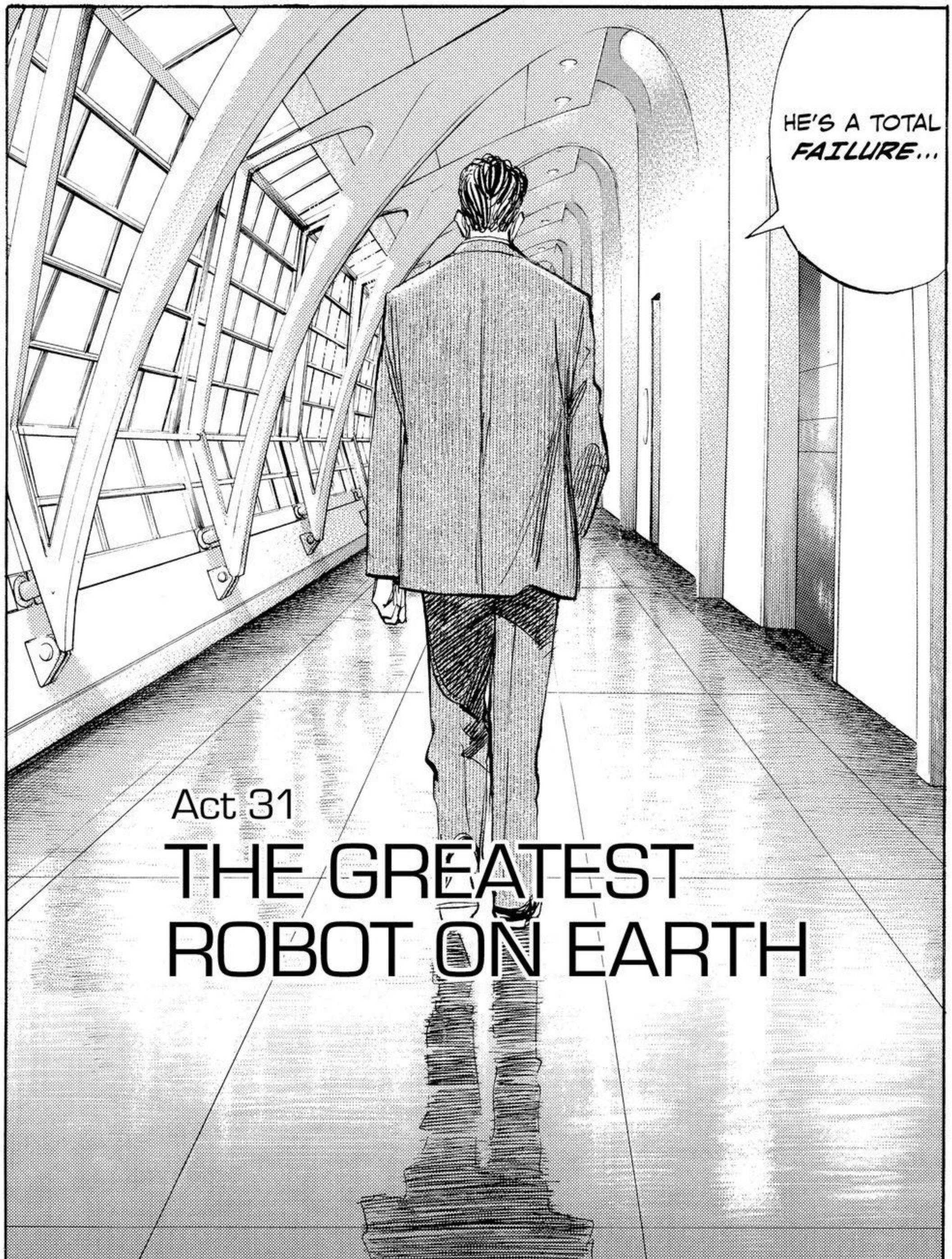
IT MUST BE NURTURED AND DEVELOPED.


THIS DEVICE ALSO *PREVENTS* THEIR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM MATURING ...
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13 OF THE ROBOT LAWS, ALL ROBOTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH A DEVICE THAT SUPPRESSES THEIR EMOTIONS...

...A MASTER-PIECE?
ZHOOP
ATOM?

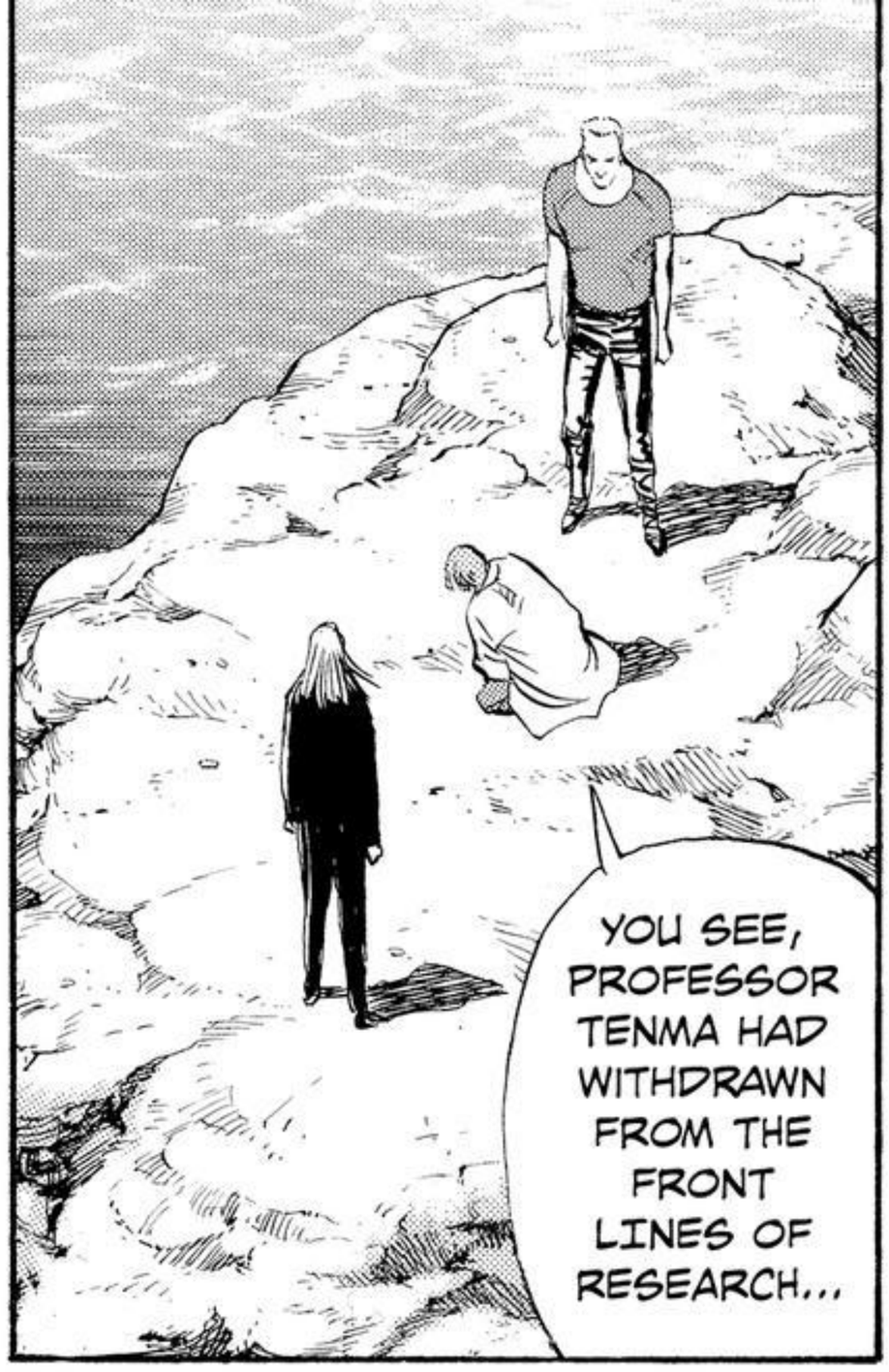
BUT, PROFESSOR, YOU CREATED ATOM, A MASTERPIECE OF TECHNOLOGY...



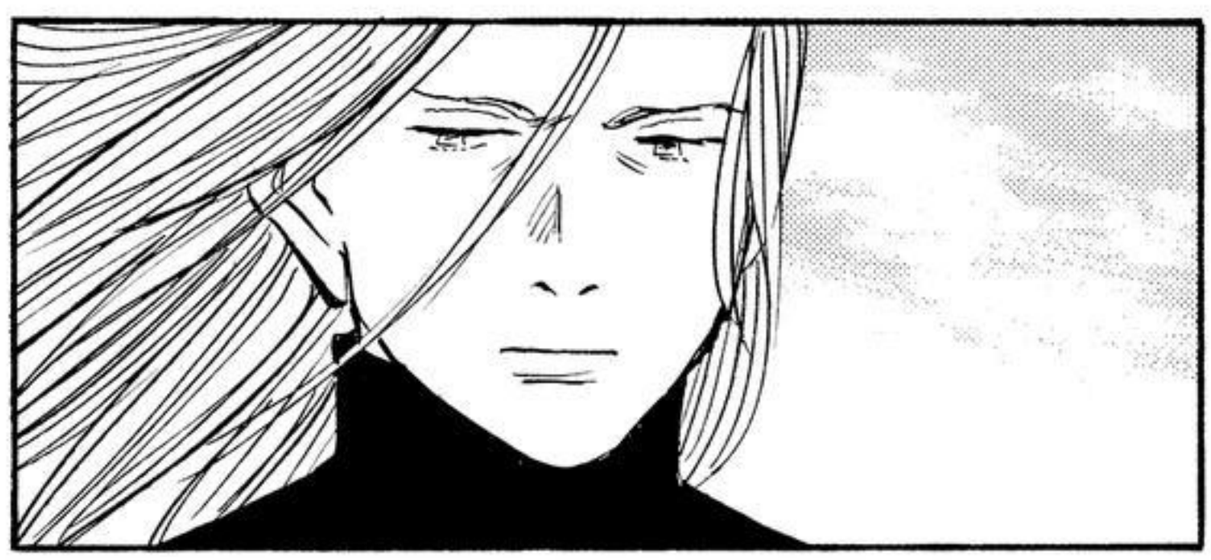


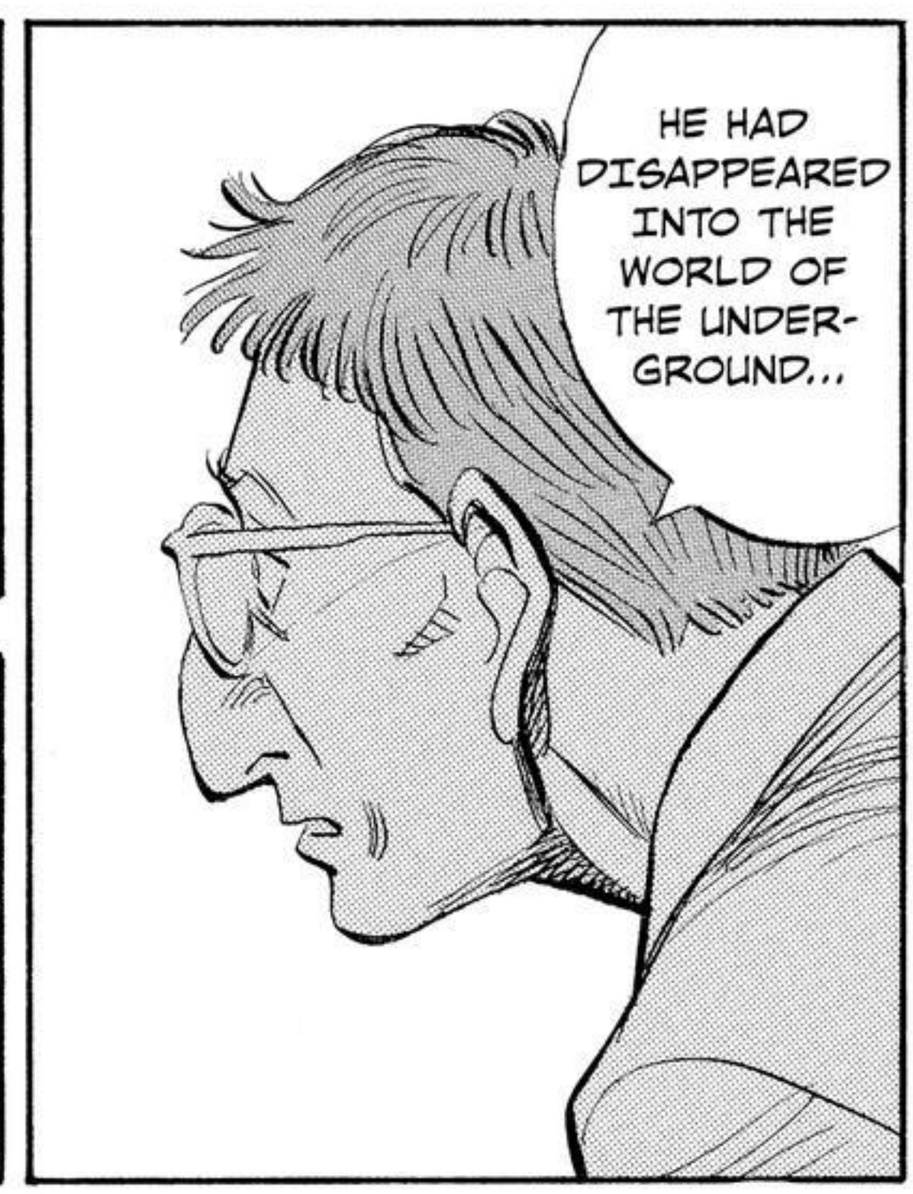
Act 31

THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH

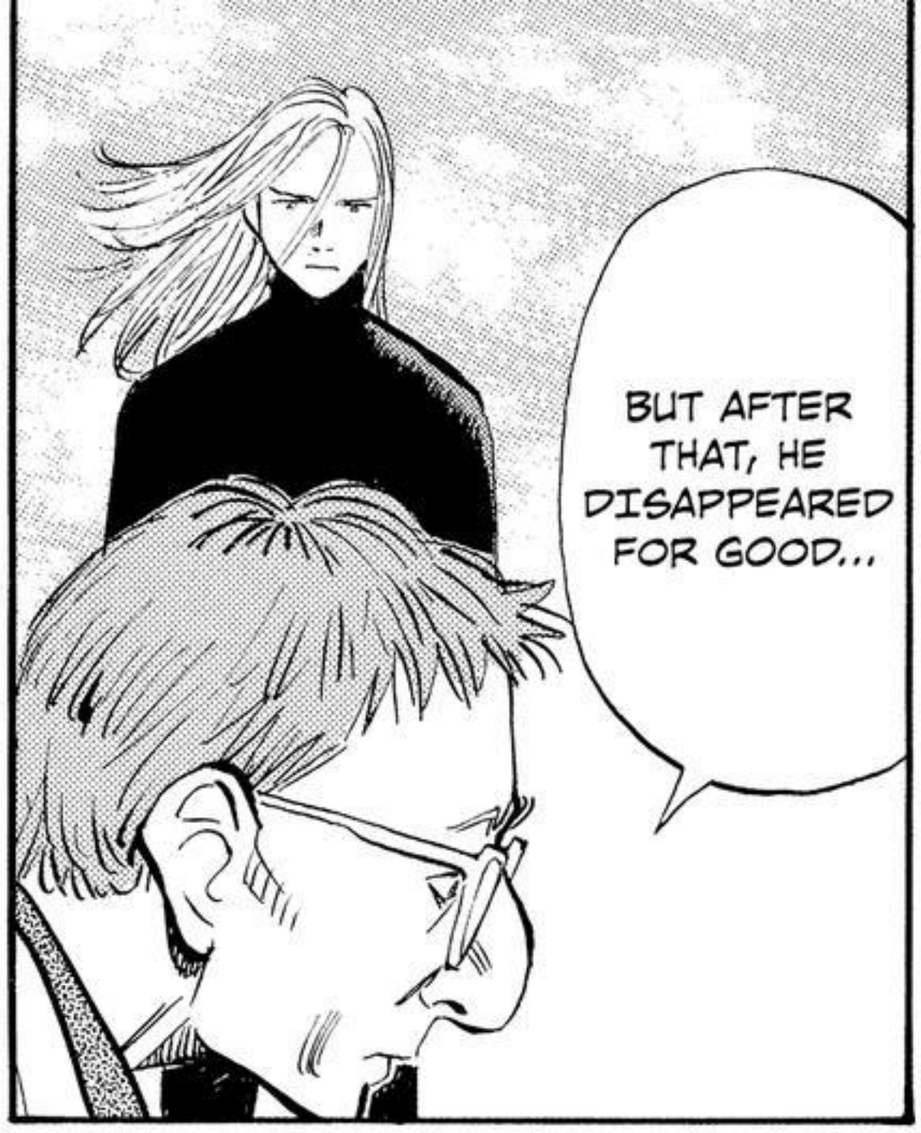

YOU SEE, PROFESSOR TENMA HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE FRONT LINES OF RESEARCH...

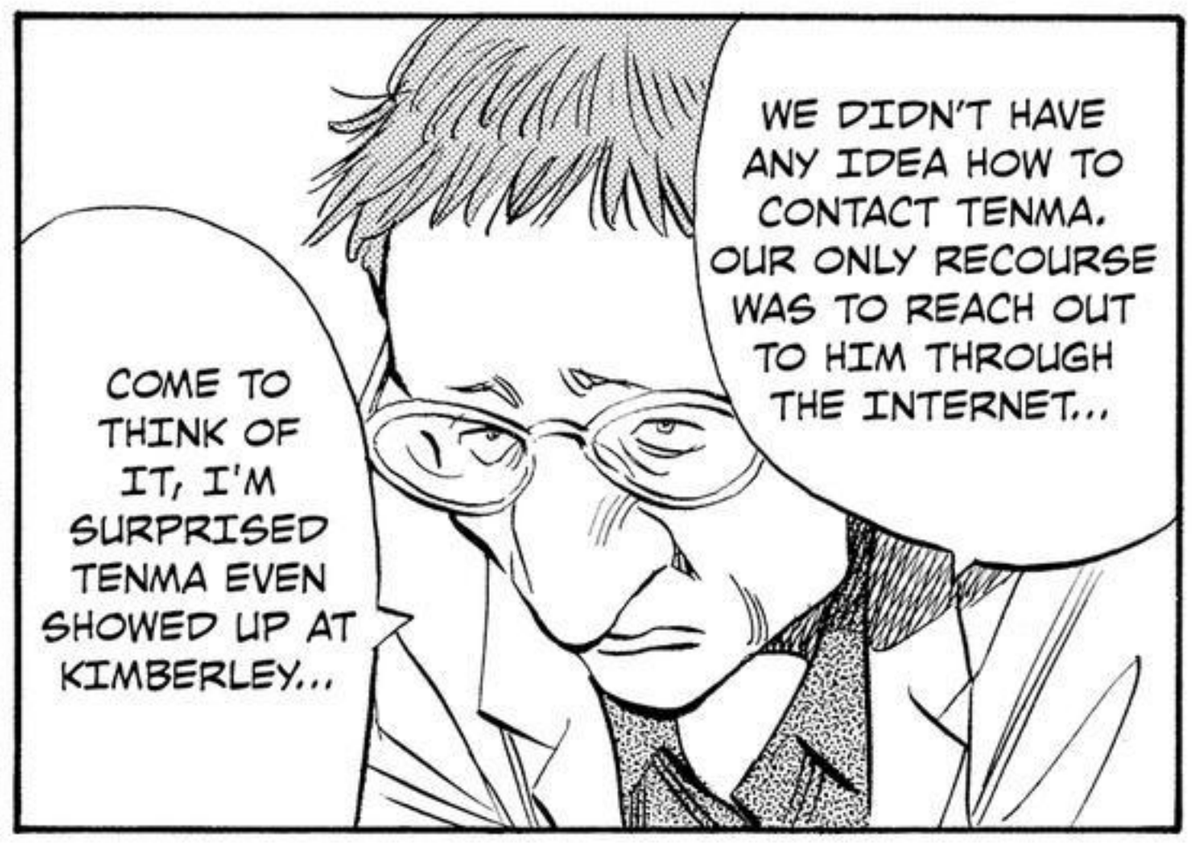
GREECE

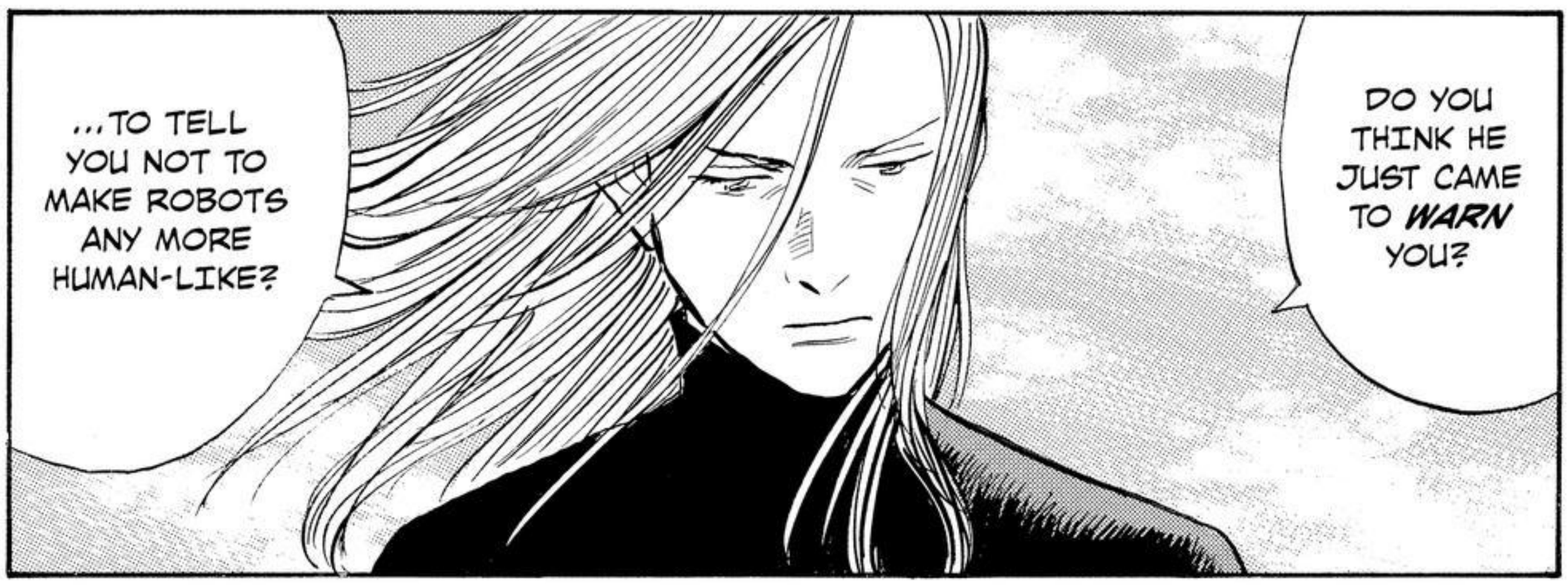


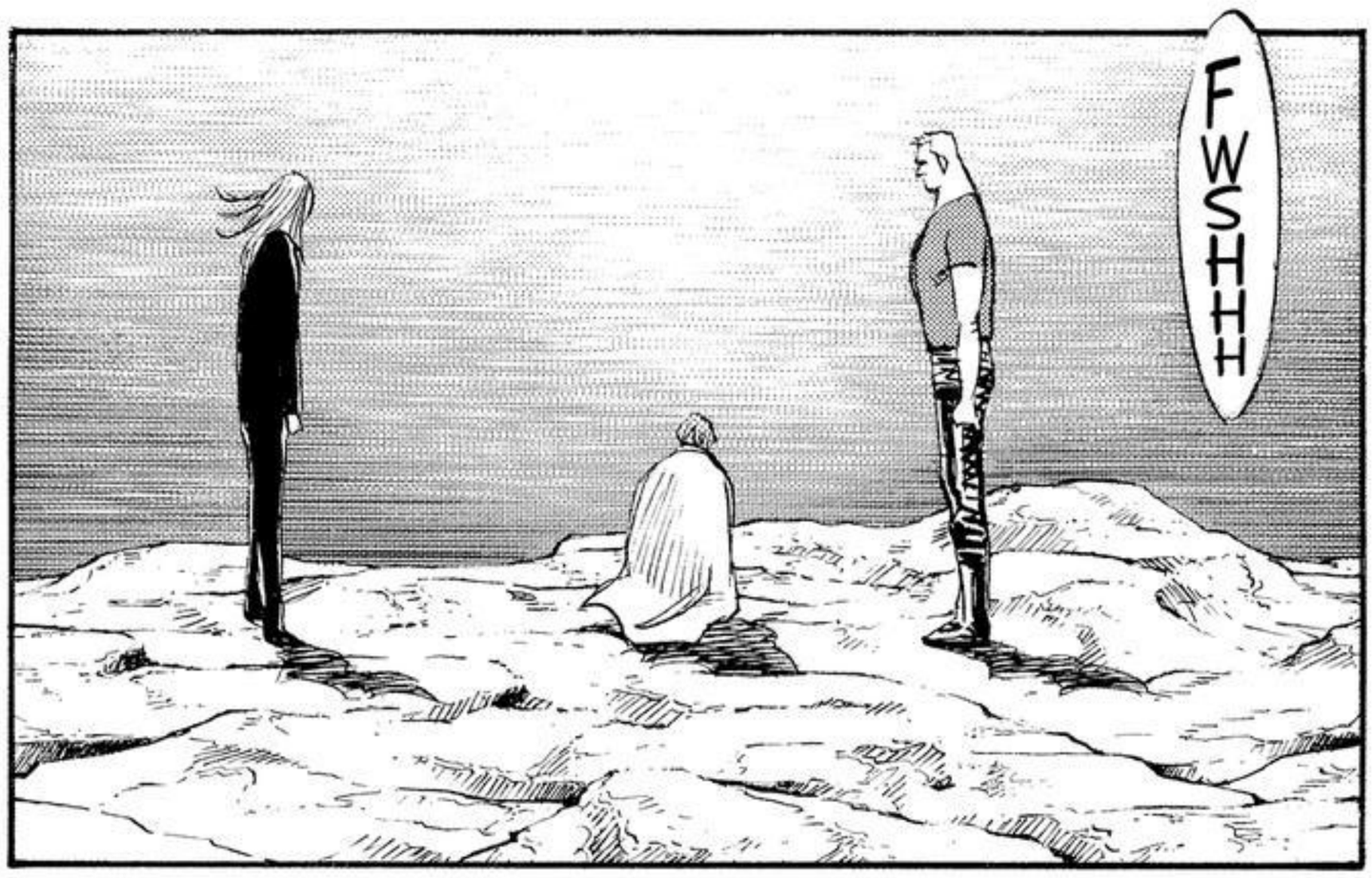

HE HAD DISAPPEARED INTO THE WORLD OF THE UNDER-GROUND...

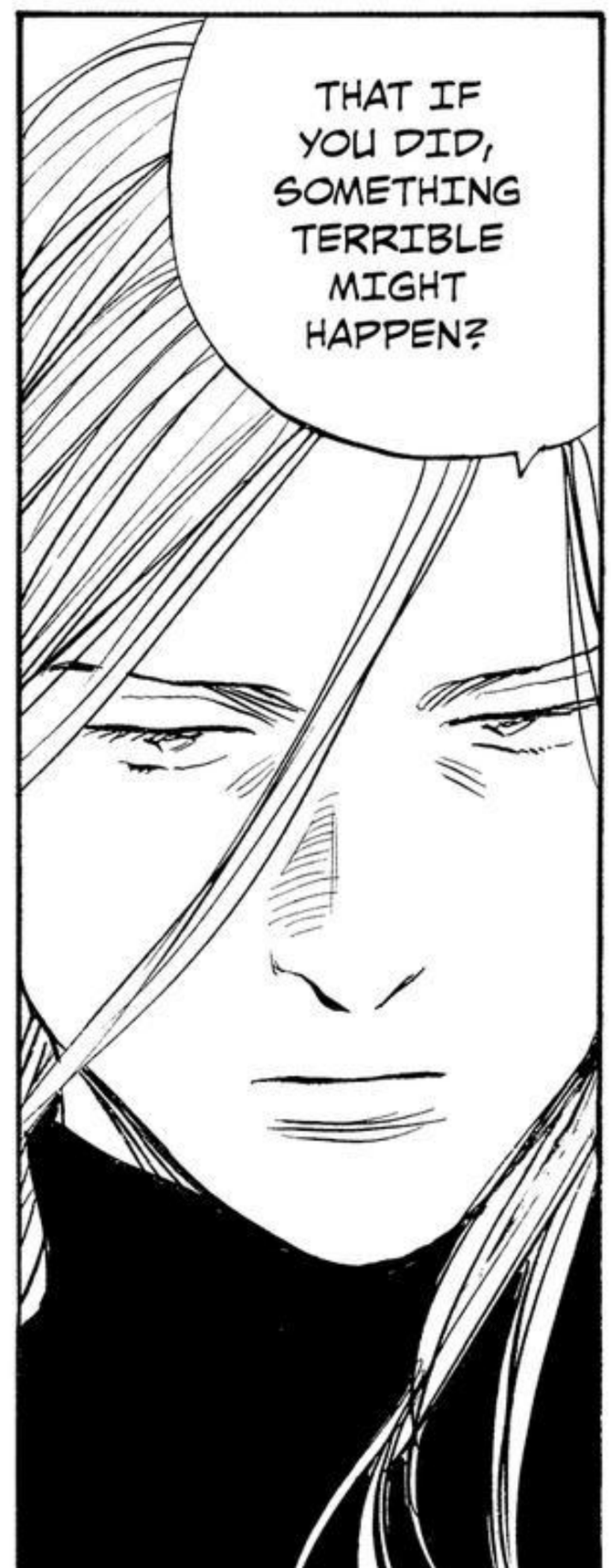
BUT IF WE REALLY WERE TO BUILD A ROBOT TO SAVE THE WORLD, THEN TENMA'S COOPERATION WOULD BE INDISPENSABLE...
THE KIMBERLEY MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY PROFESSOR RONALD NEWTON-HOWARD...


BUT AFTER THAT, HE DISAPPEARED FOR GOOD...

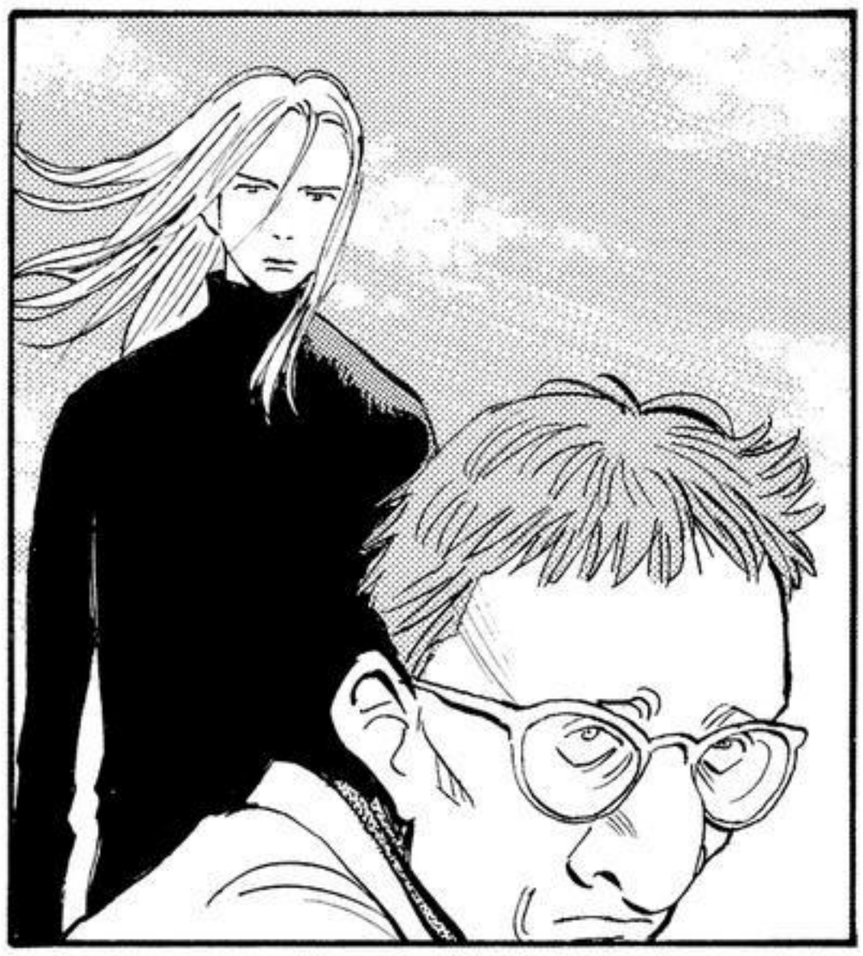

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO CONTACT TENMA. OUR ONLY RECOURSE WAS TO REACH OUT TO HIM THROUGH THE INTERNET...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M SURPRISED TENMA EVEN SHOWED UP AT KIMBERLEY...

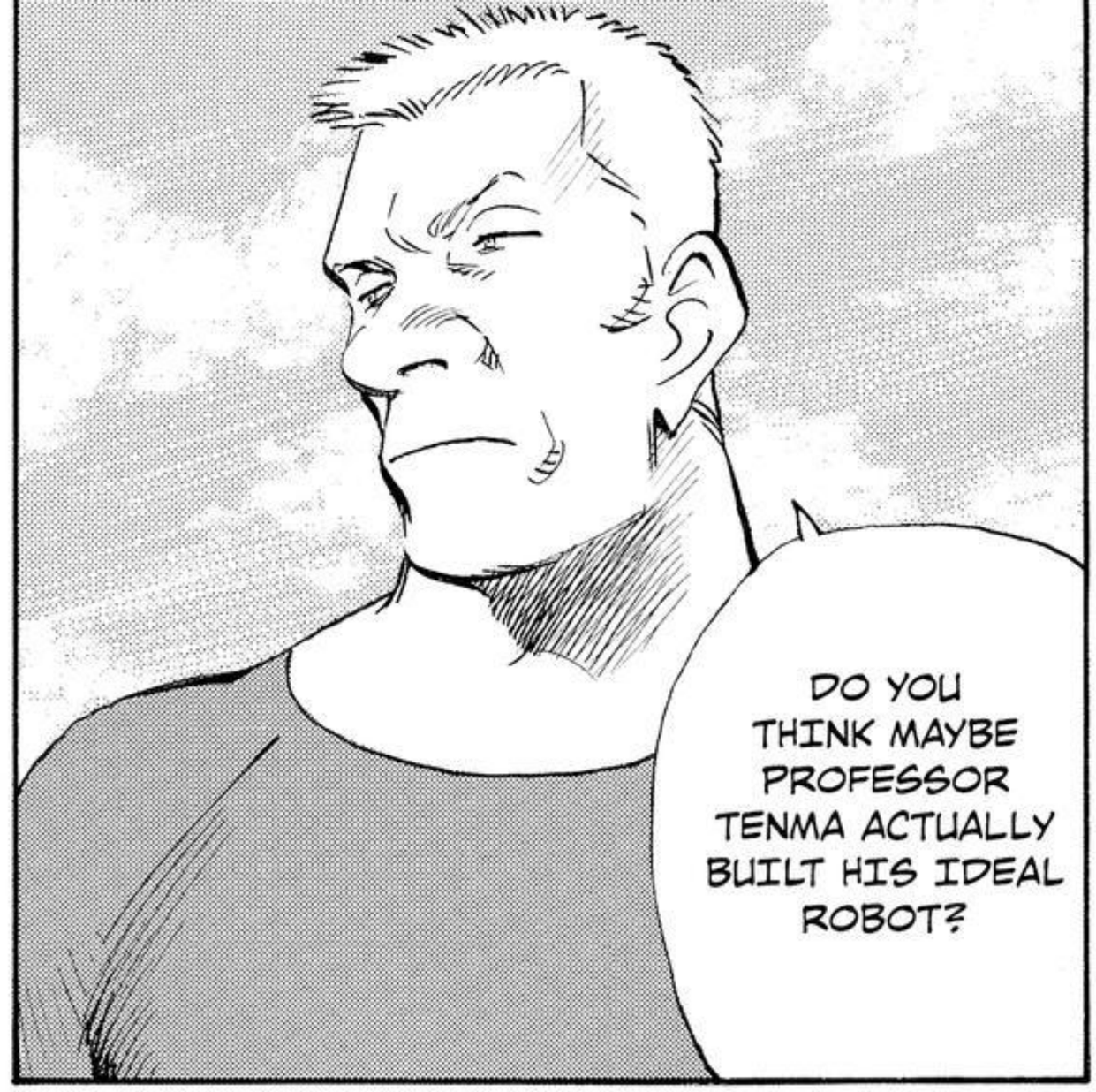

...TO TELL YOU NOT TO MAKE ROBOTS ANY MORE HUMAN-LIKE?
DO YOU THINK HE JUST CAME TO *WARN* YOU?

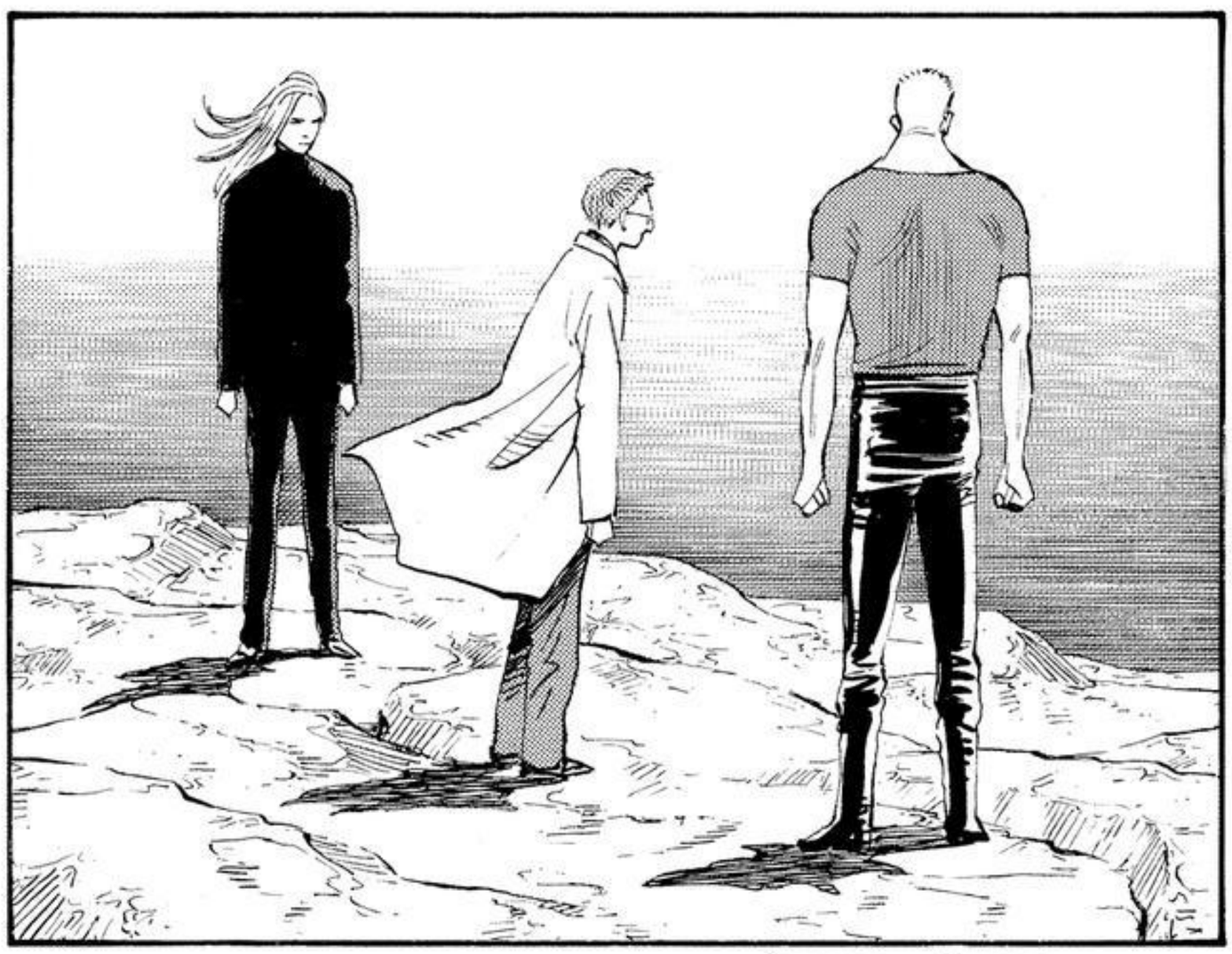

FWSHHH


THAT IF YOU DID, SOMETHING TERRIBLE MIGHT HAPPEN?

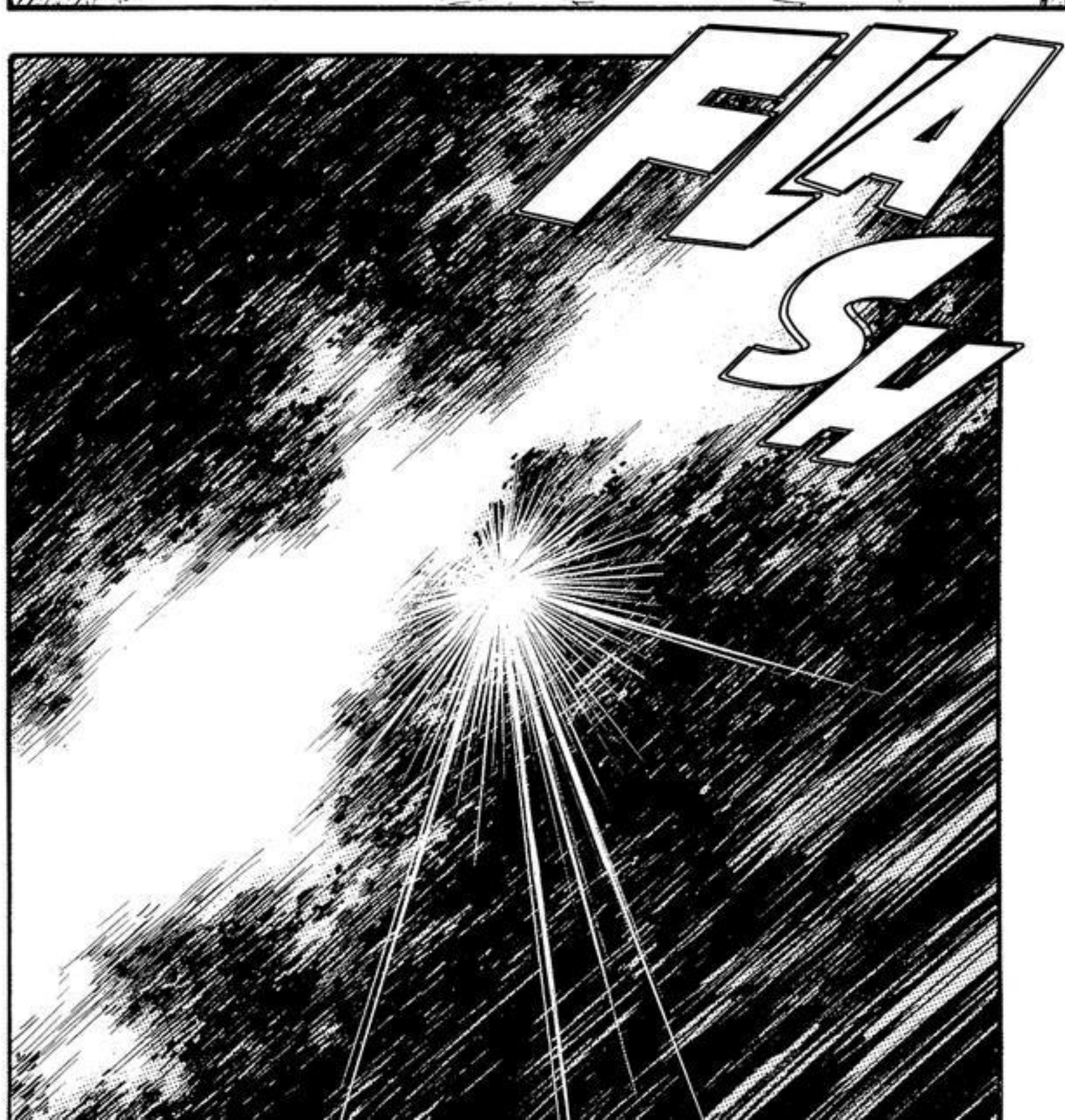
YOU THINK MAYBE HE BUILT ONE?




DO YOU THINK MAYBE PROFESSOR TENMA ACTUALLY BUILT HIS IDEAL ROBOT?

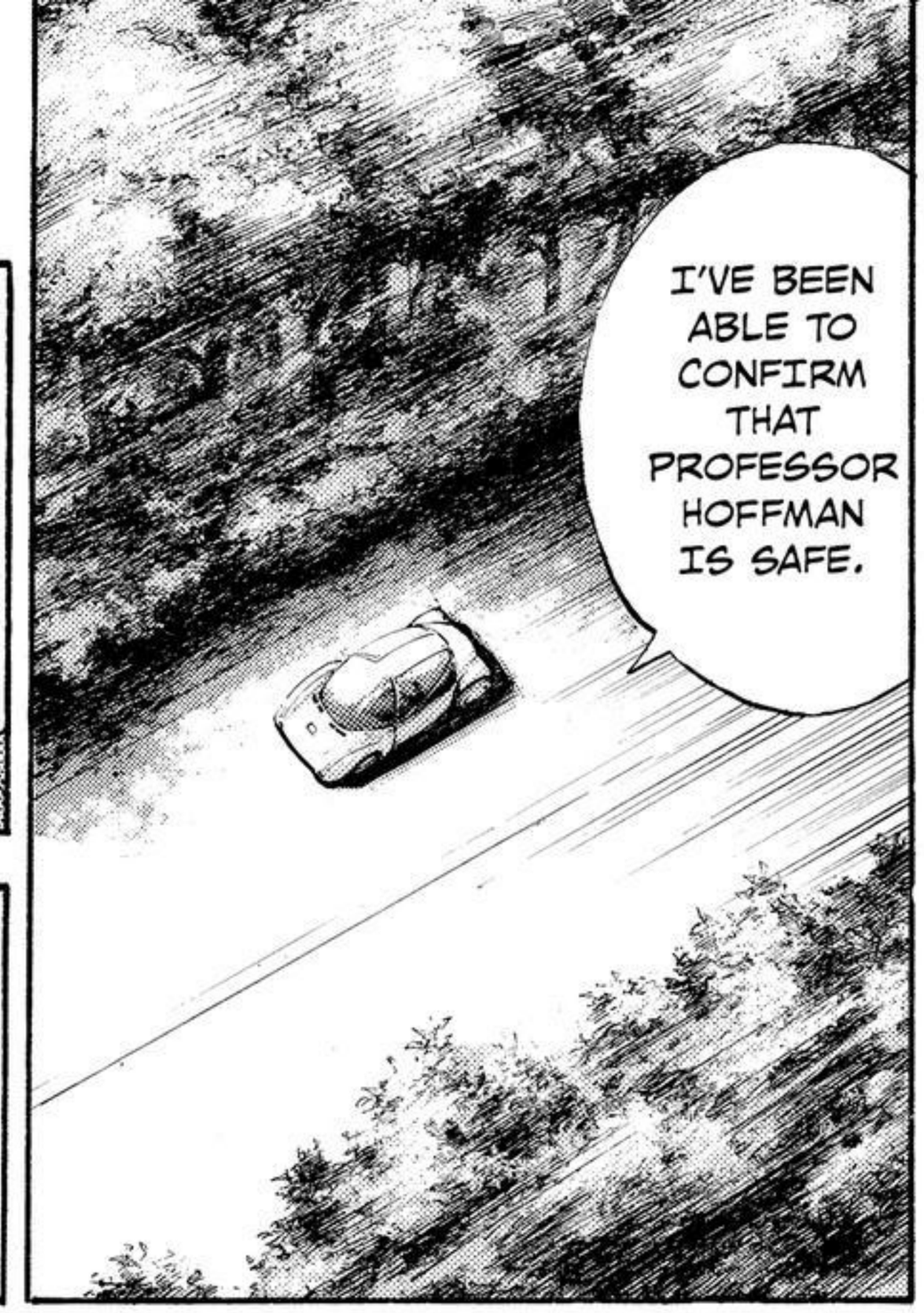


SHUF


FLASH

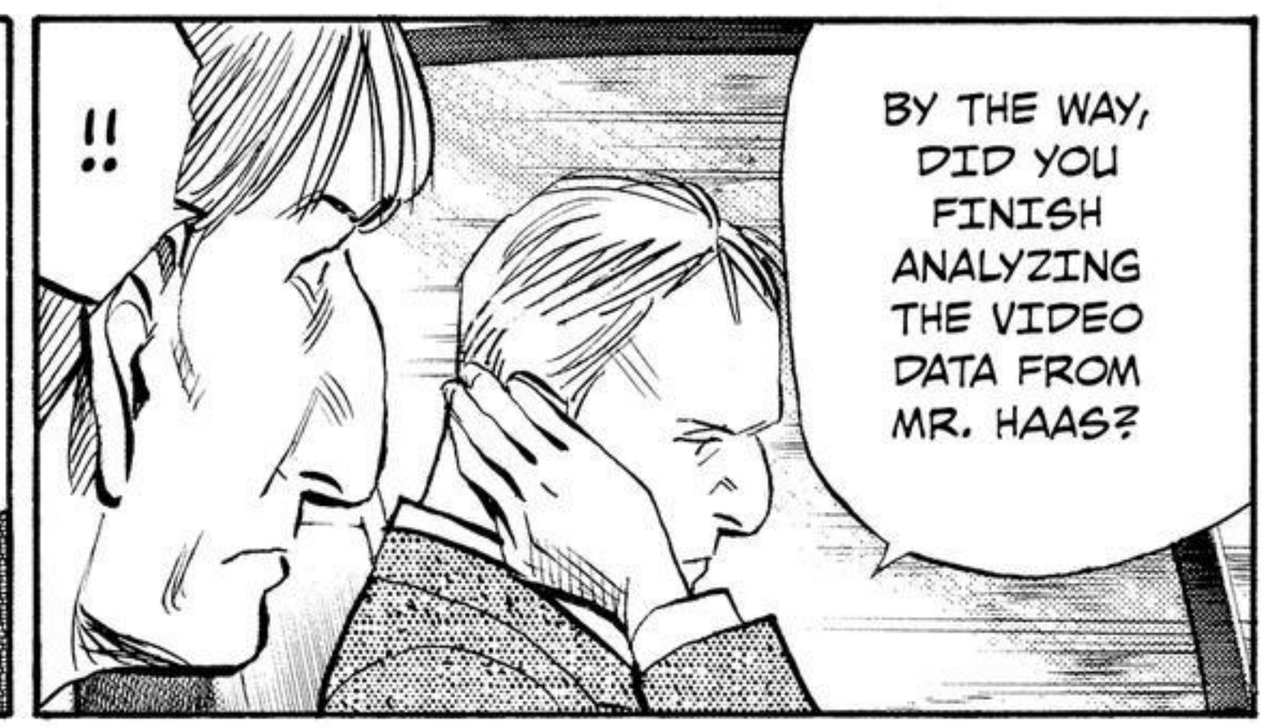
YES... I THINK HE DID.

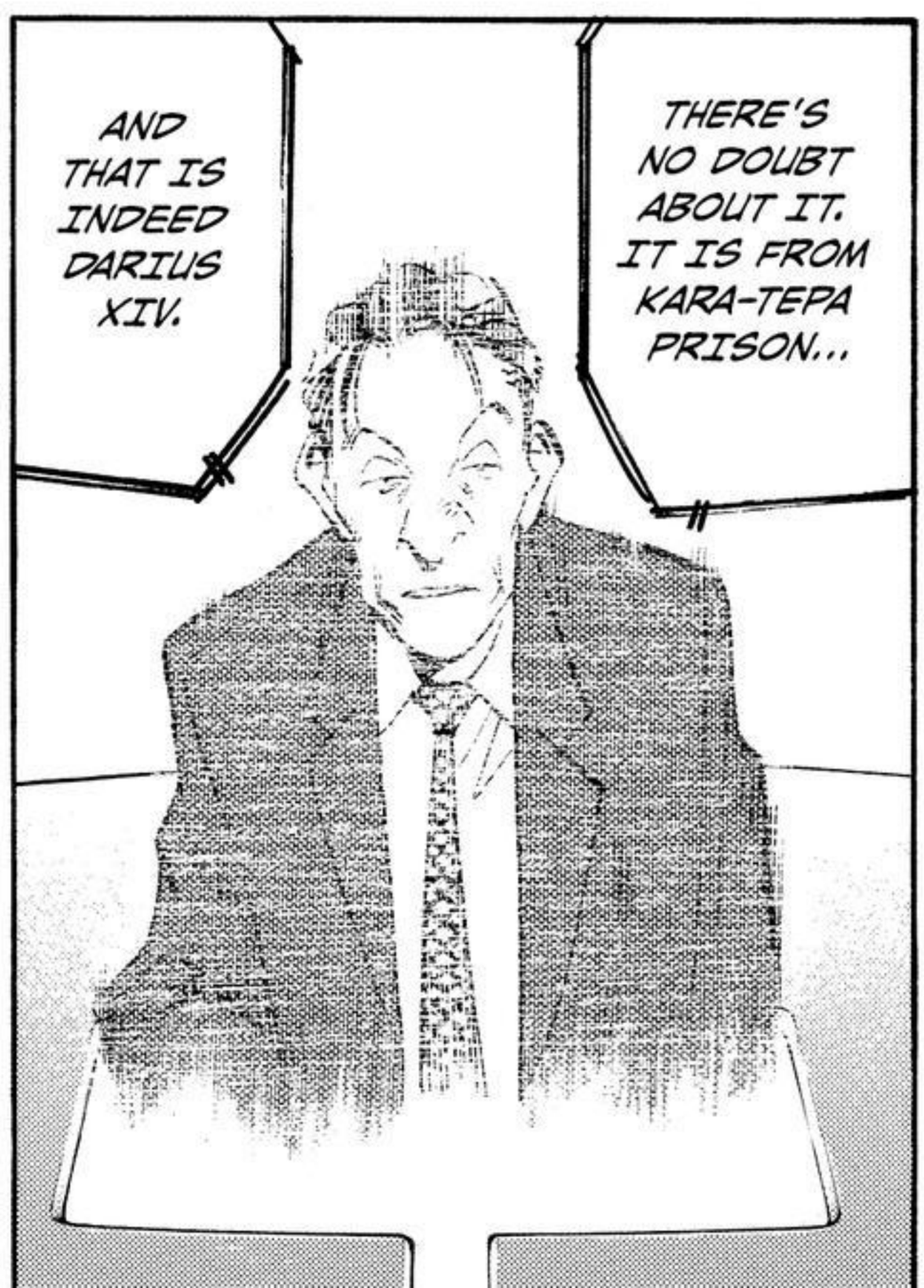
YES, I JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM HERCULES.


I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT PROFESSOR HOFFMAN IS SAFE.

I'LL SAY... IT SURE IS A RELIEF.

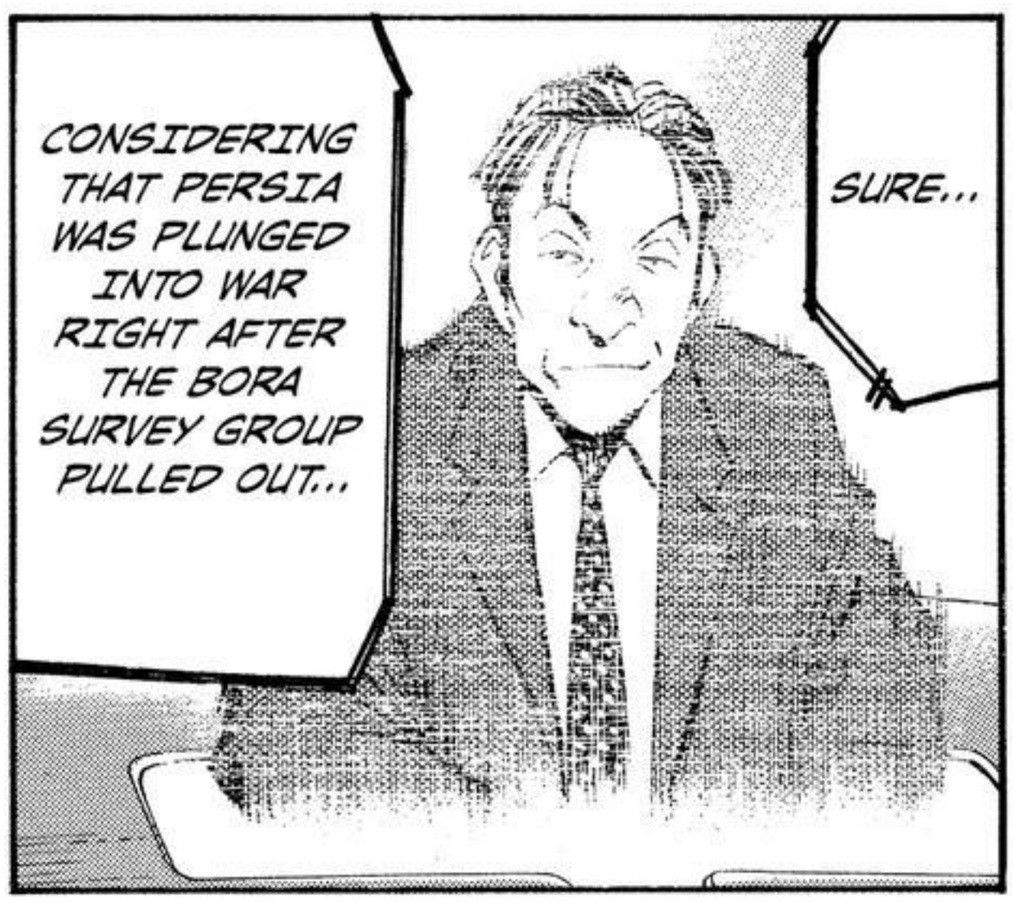
HEY! L... LET ME HEAR TOO!!

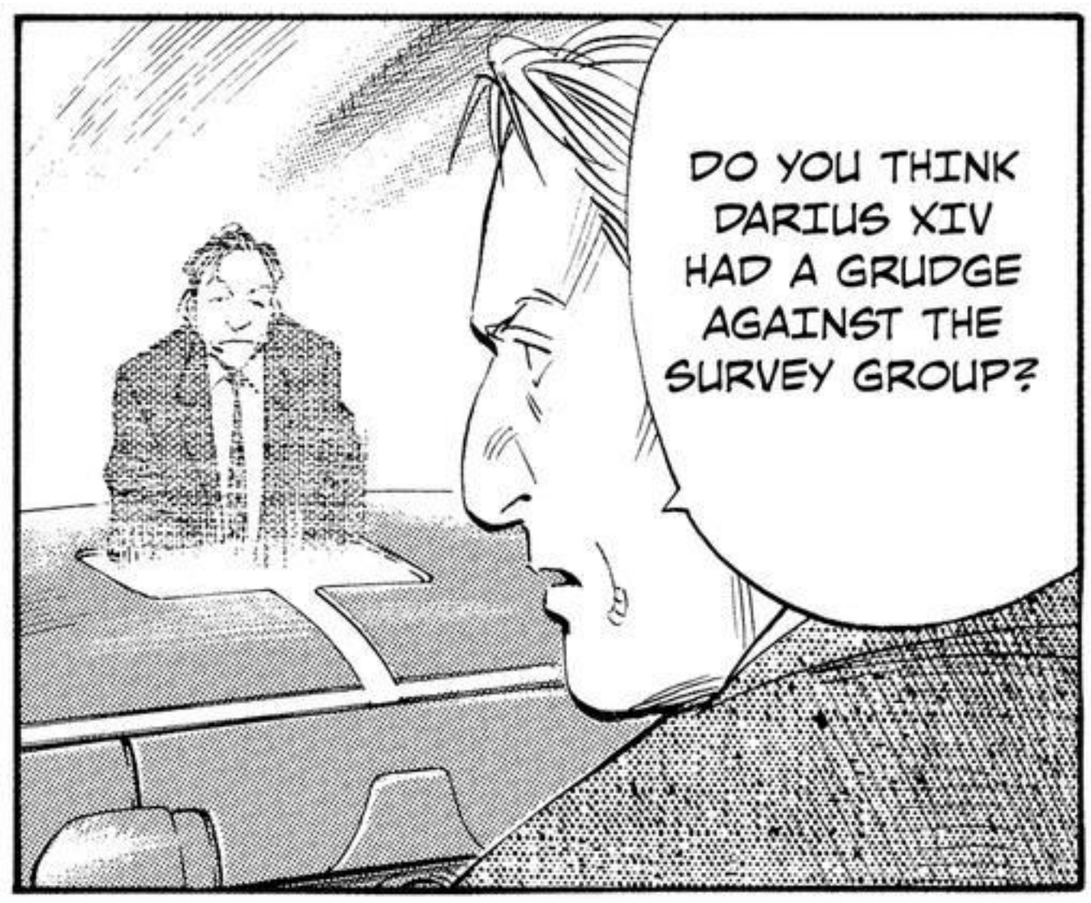

!!
BY THE WAY, DID YOU FINISH ANALYZING THE VIDEO DATA FROM MR. HAAS?


AND THAT IS INDEED DARIUS XIV.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT IS FROM KARA-TEPA PRISON...

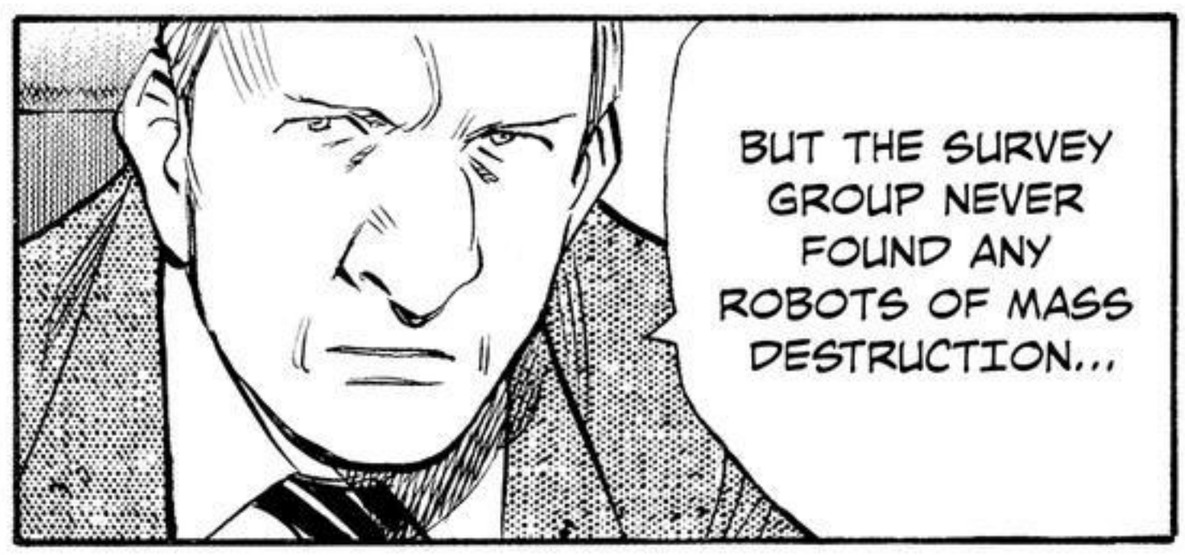
BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THIS WAS AN ACTUAL ASSASSINATION ORDER.
THREE OF THESE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MURDERED.

MOREOVER, THE NAMES HE KEEPS REPEATING ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP.
...

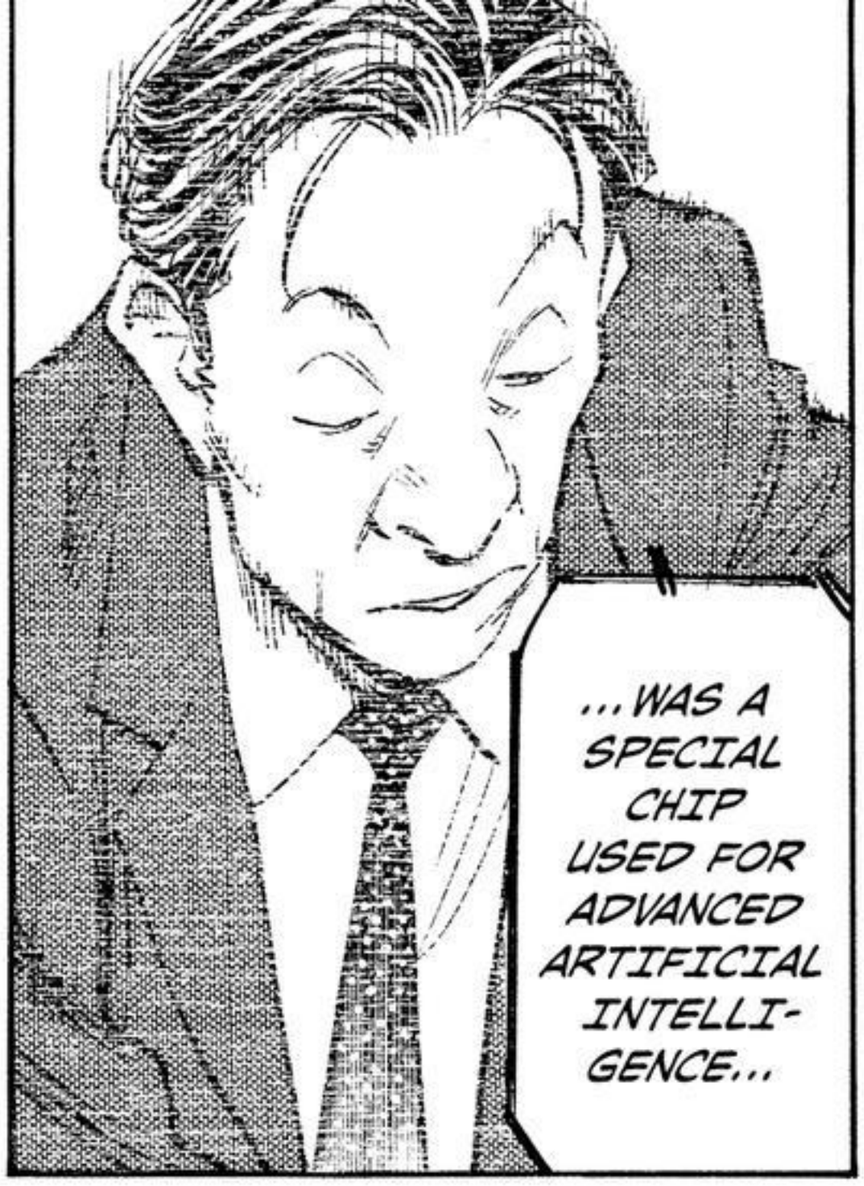

CONSIDERING THAT PERSIA WAS PLUNGED INTO WAR RIGHT AFTER THE BORA SURVEY GROUP PULLED OUT...
SURE...

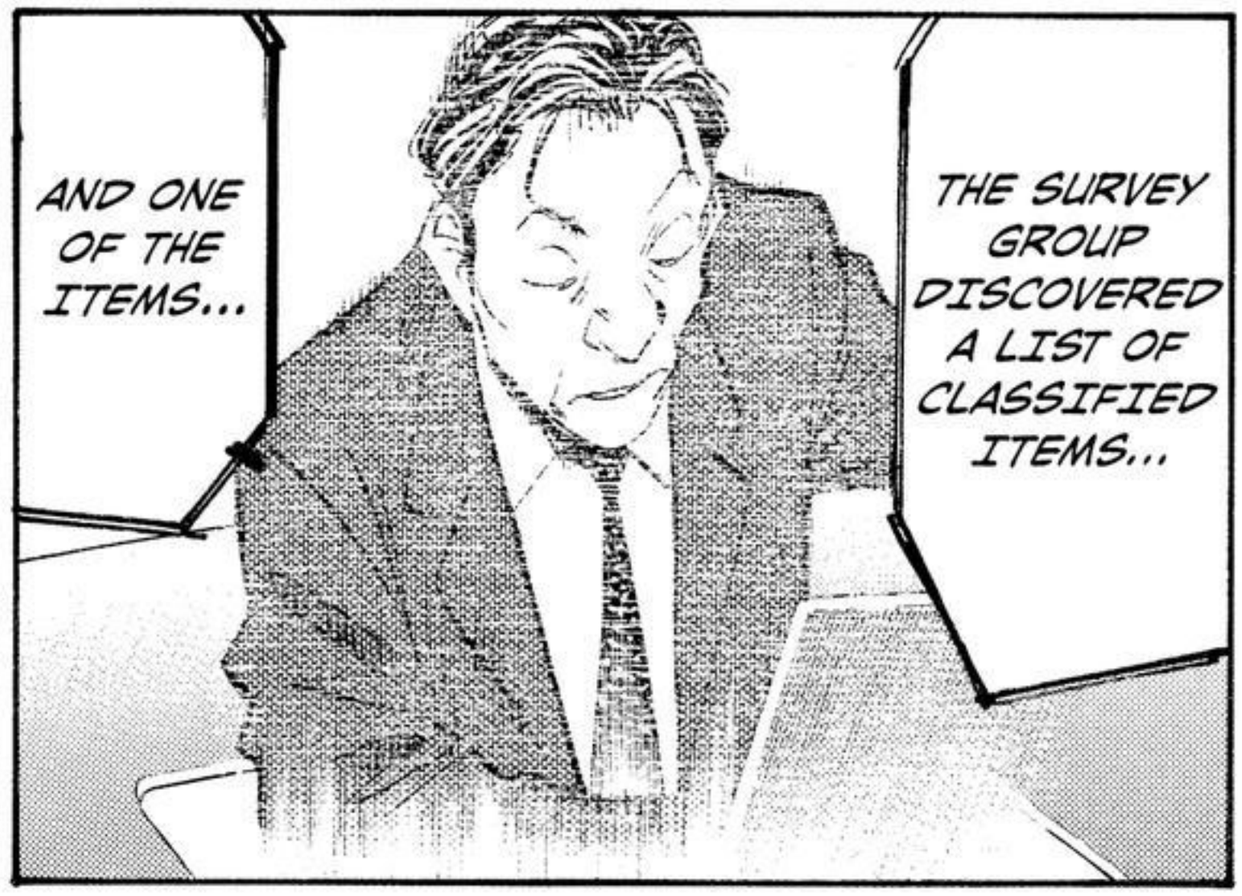

DO YOU THINK DARIUS XIV HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SURVEY GROUP?

WELL, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING...


BUT THE SURVEY GROUP NEVER FOUND ANY ROBOTS OF MASS DESTRUCTION...

OF COURSE DARIUS HATES THEM...
SO WHAT? PERSIA WAS ATTACKED EVEN THOUGH THEY FOUND NOTHING...


...WAS A SPECIAL CHIP USED FOR ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLI-GENCE...


AND ONE OF THE ITEMS...
THE SURVEY GROUP DISCOVERED A LIST OF CLASSIFIED ITEMS...

HUH? UH, LESSEE ...
WHAT MODEL CHIP WAS IT?

I DOUBT THIS WAS ENOUGH TO GO TO WAR OVER, THOUGH.

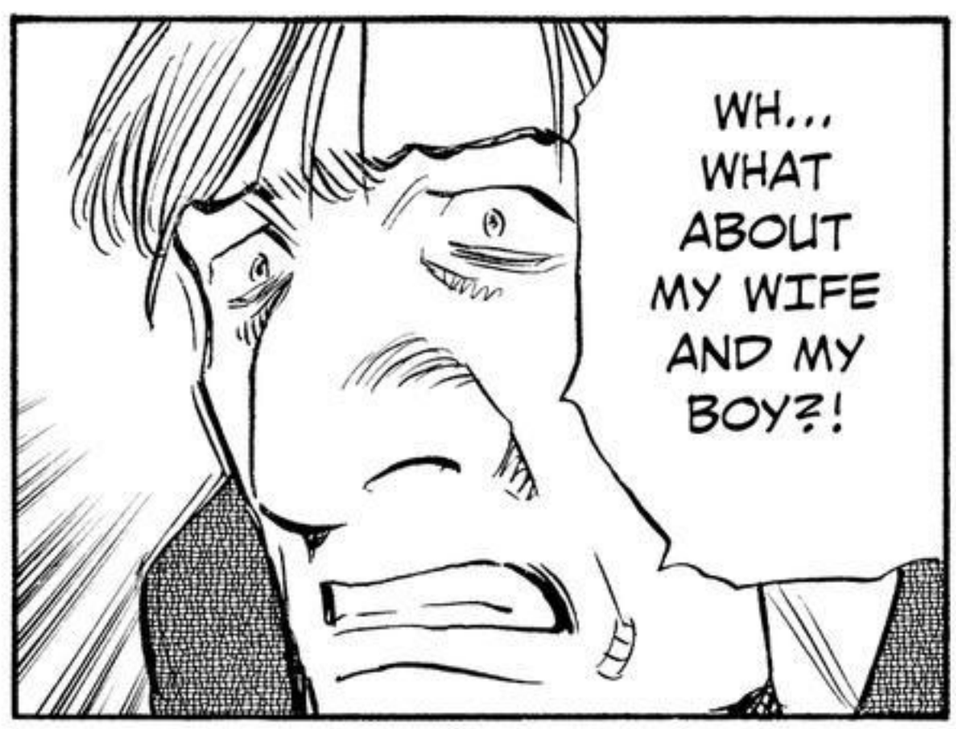
BY THE WAY, MR. HAAS...
WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING THE ANTI-ROBOT GROUP THAT'S THREATENING YOU ...

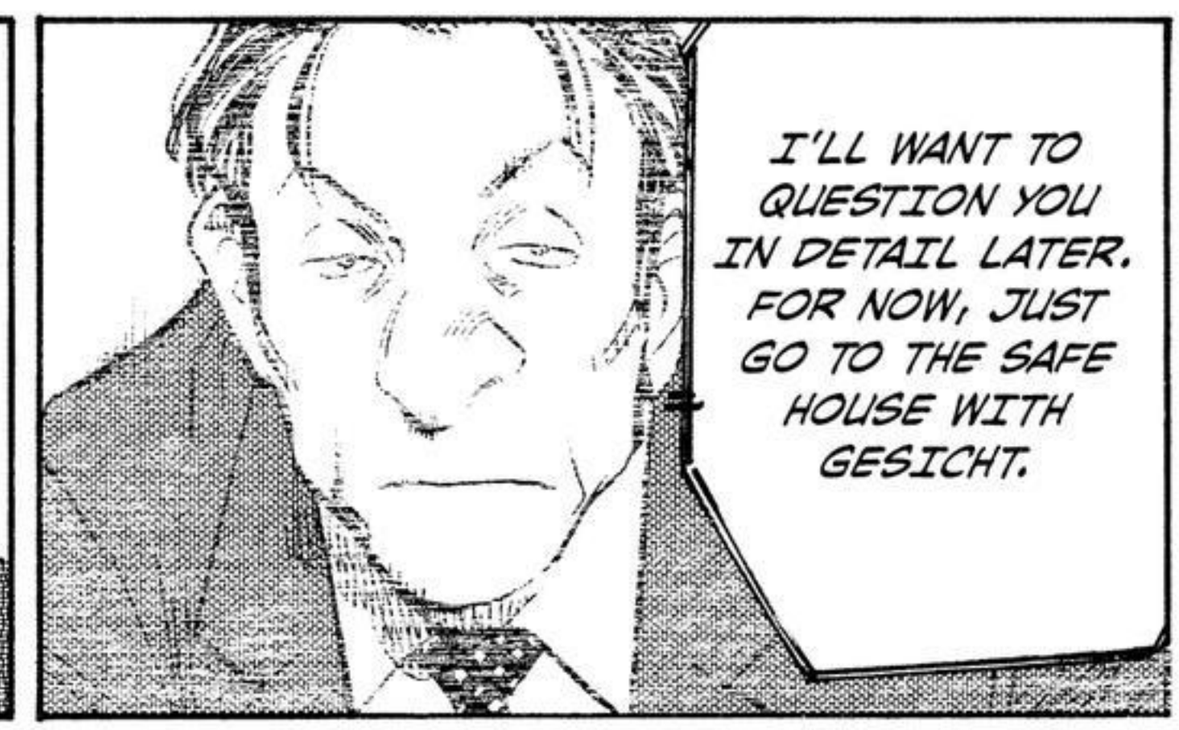
TENMA CHIP?

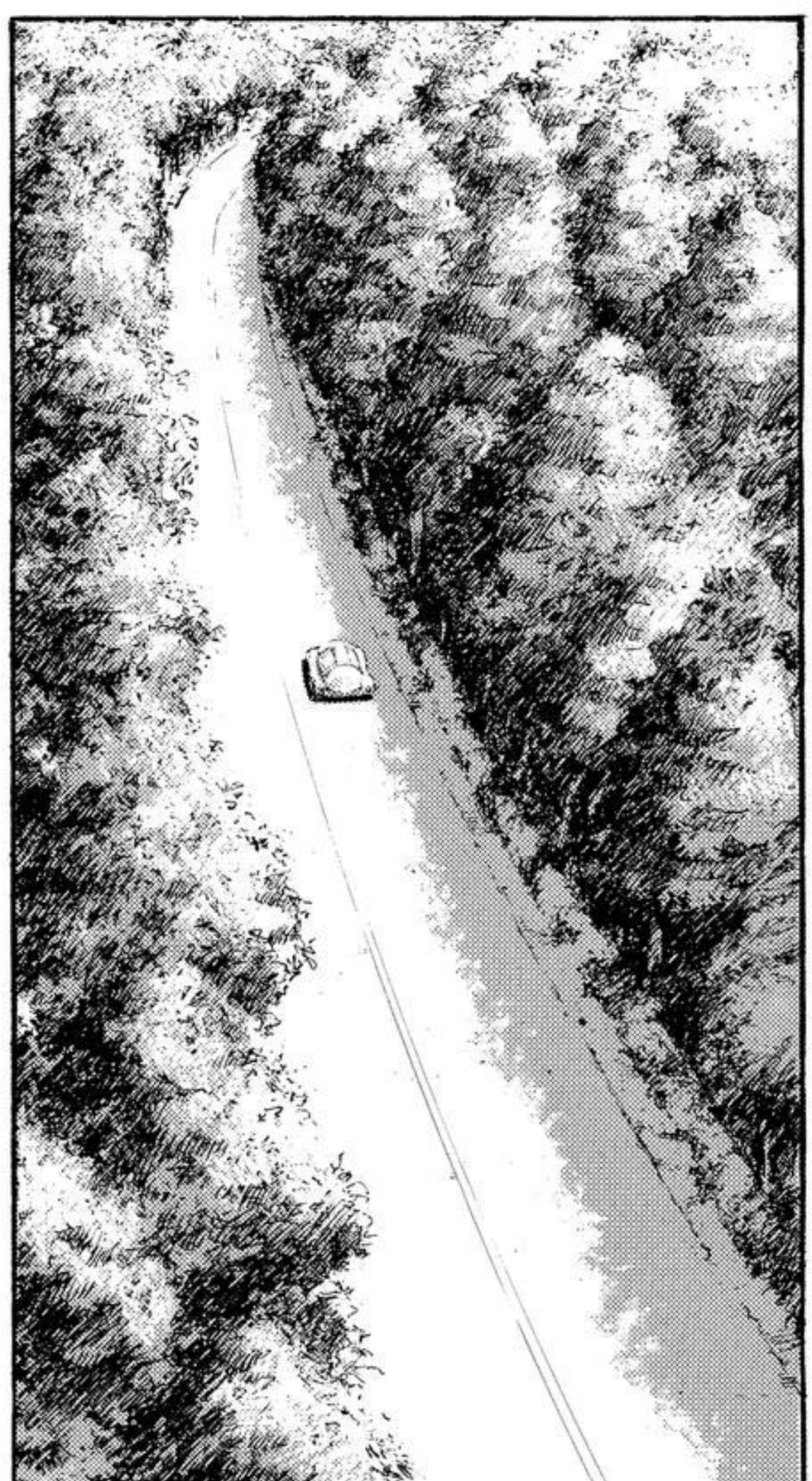
HMM...
IT'S CALLED A TENMA CHIP.

...

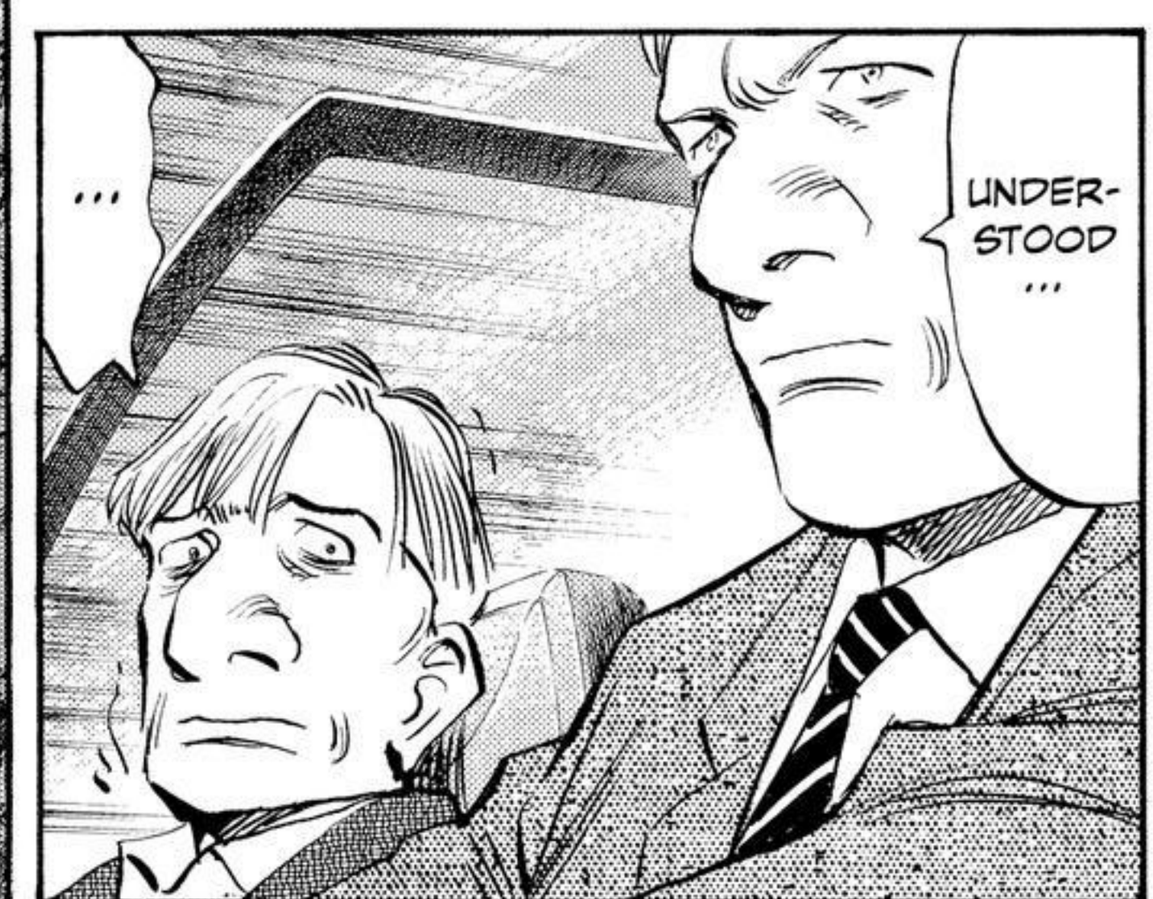
THIS IS SOME DANGEROUS DATA YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING ON TO...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR OLD FRIENDS MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONES WHO WANT YOU DEAD.

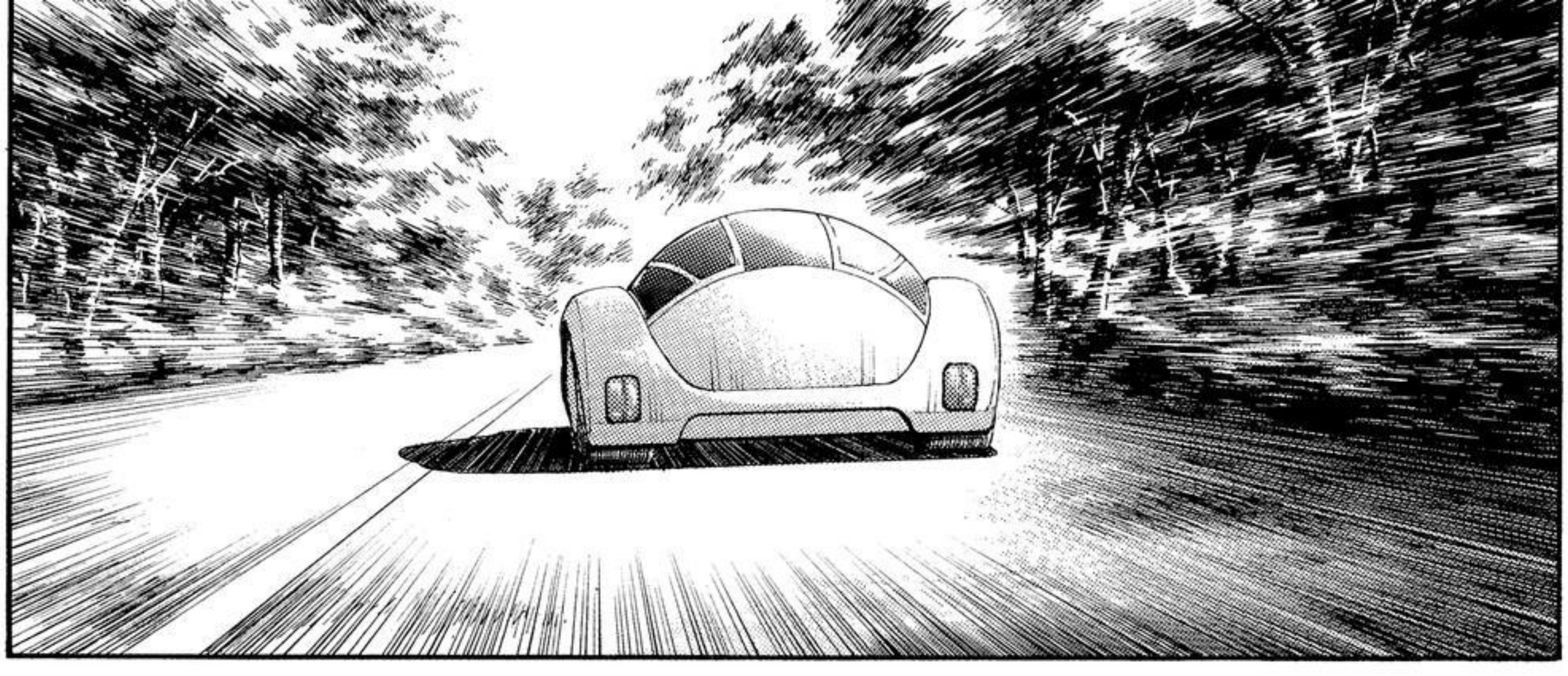

WH... WHAT ABOUT MY WIFE AND MY BOY?!

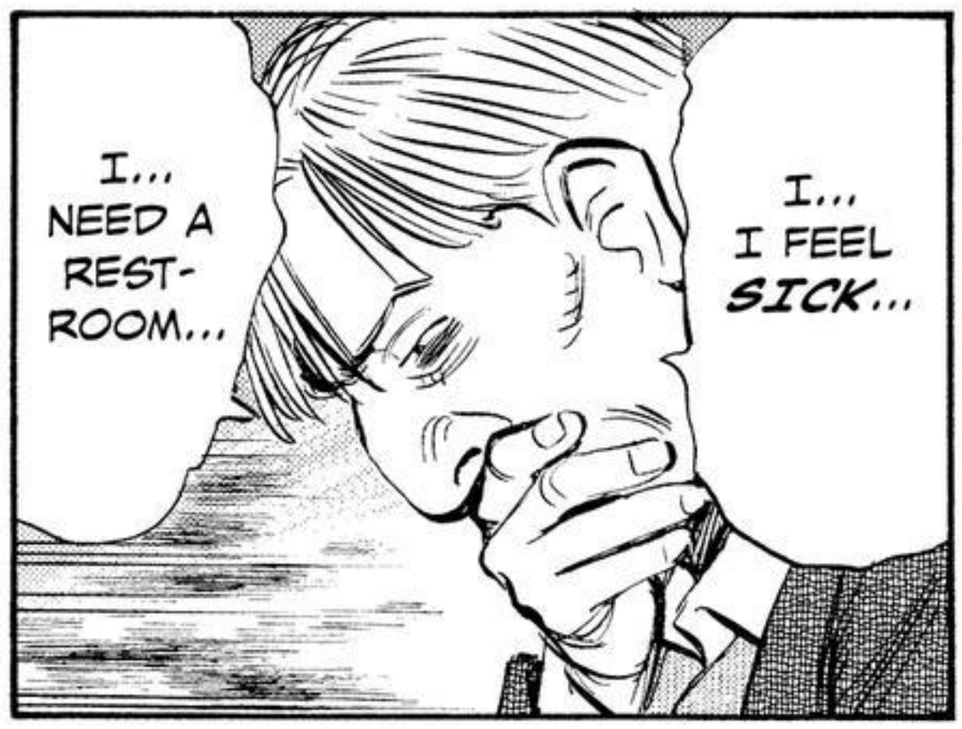

I'LL WANT TO QUESTION YOU IN DETAIL LATER. FOR NOW, JUST GO TO THE SAFE HOUSE WITH GESICHT.



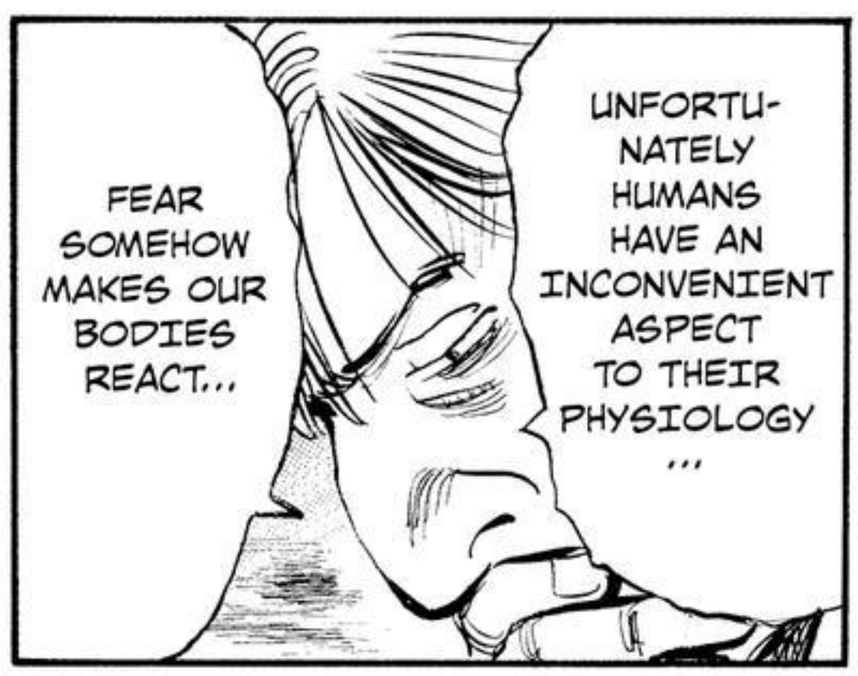
GESICHT, I'M DEPENDING ON YOU.
DON'T WORRY... WE'RE KEEPING THEM SAFE.

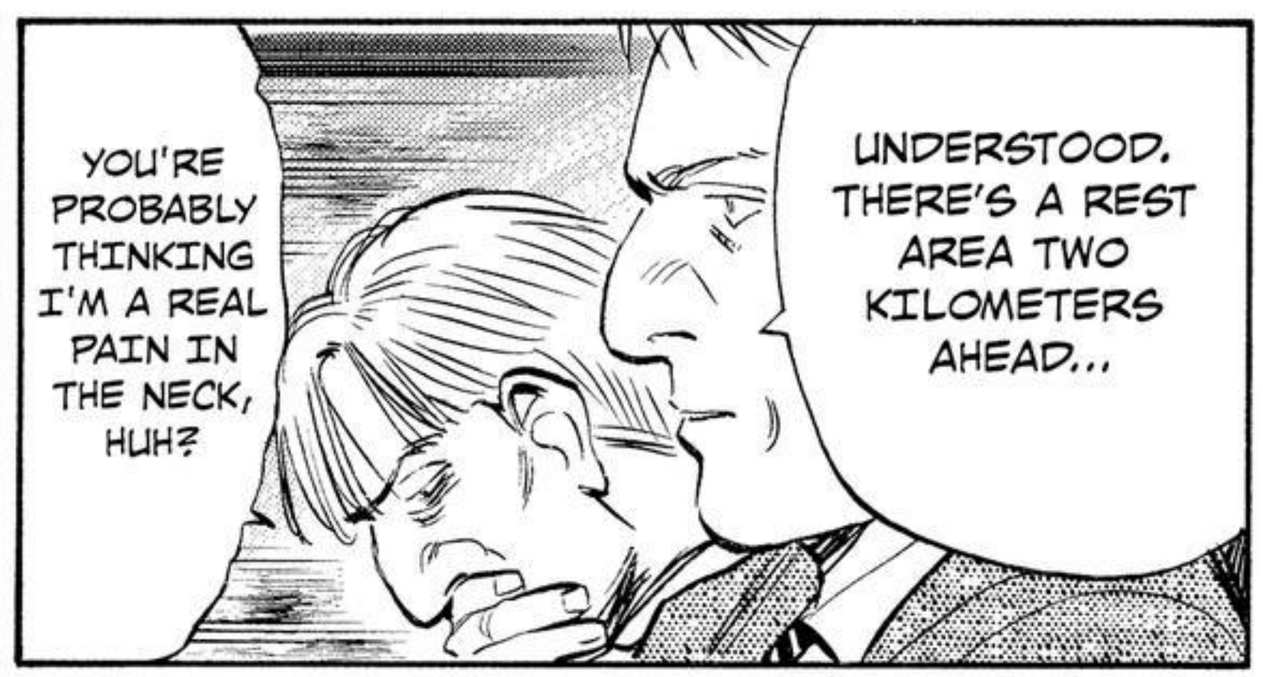

...
UNDER-STOOD ...




I... NEED A REST-ROOM...
I... I FEEL SICK...

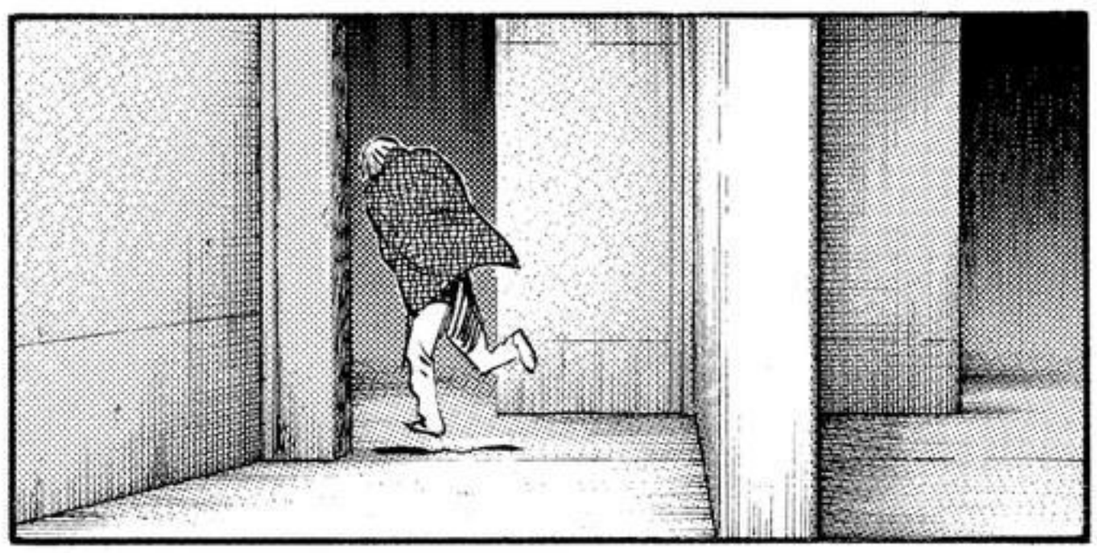
WHAT'S WRONG?

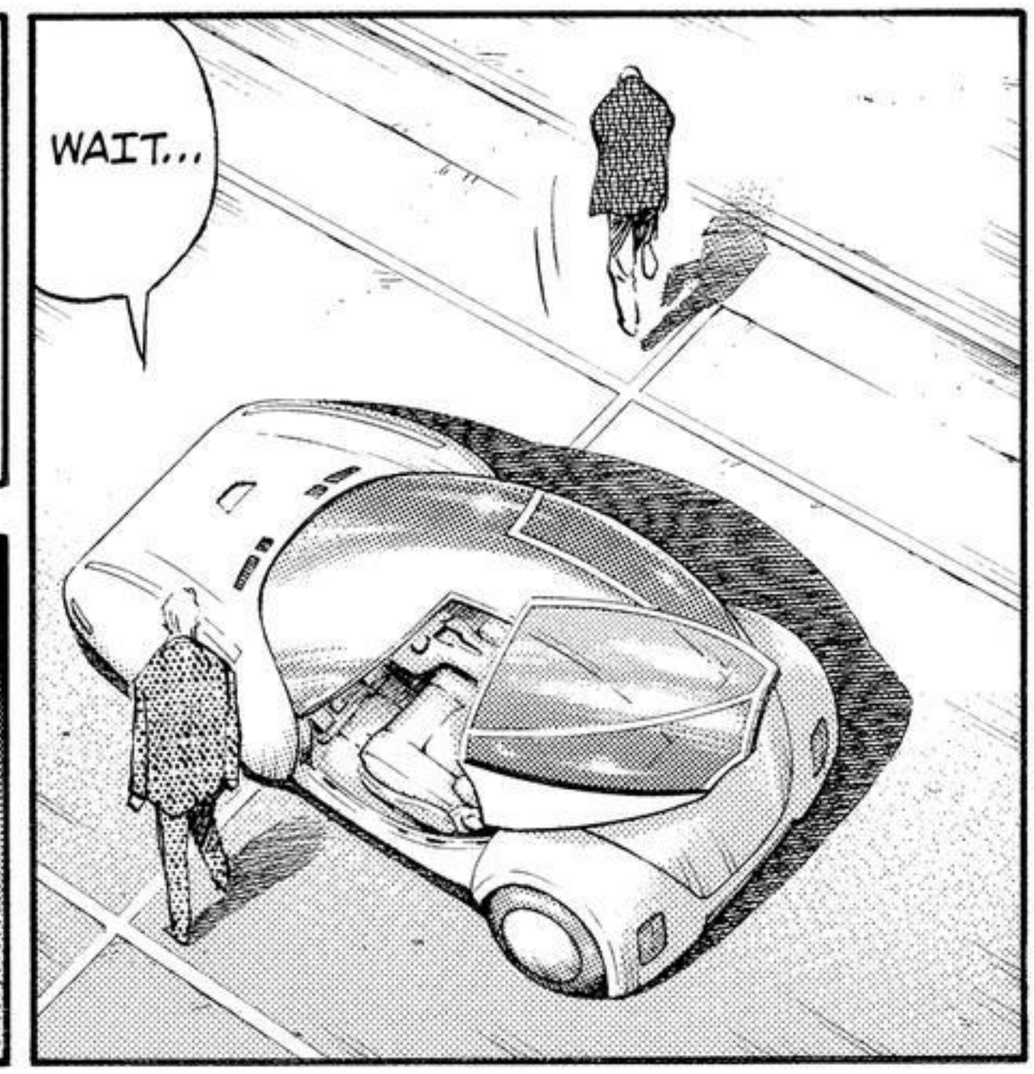

FEAR SOMEHOW MAKES OUR BODIES REACT...
UNFORTU-NATELY HUMANS HAVE AN INCONVENIENT ASPECT TO THEIR PHYSIOLOGY ...

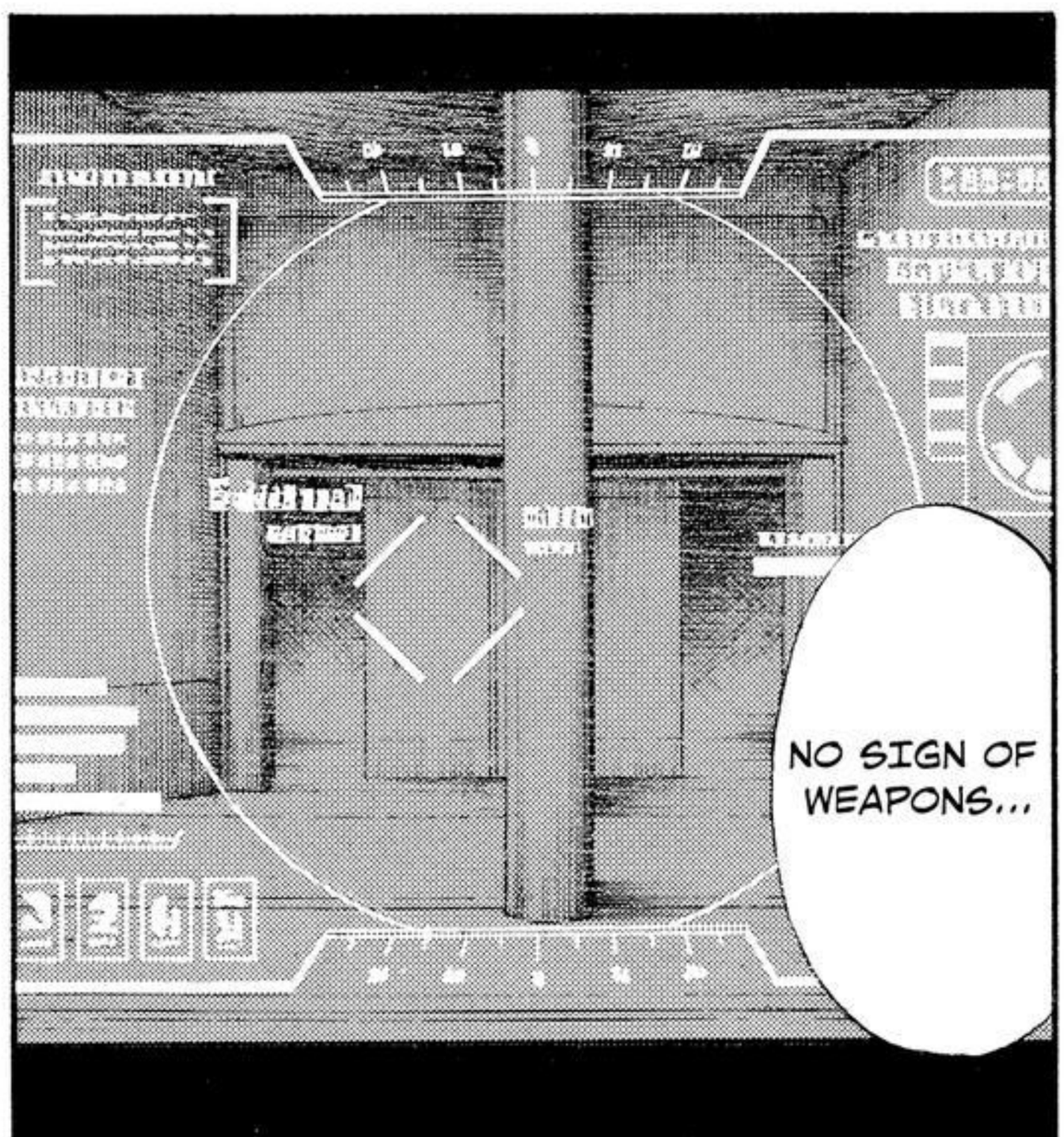

YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING I'M A REAL PAIN IN THE NECK, HUH?
UNDERSTOOD. THERE'S A REST AREA TWO KILOMETERS AHEAD...

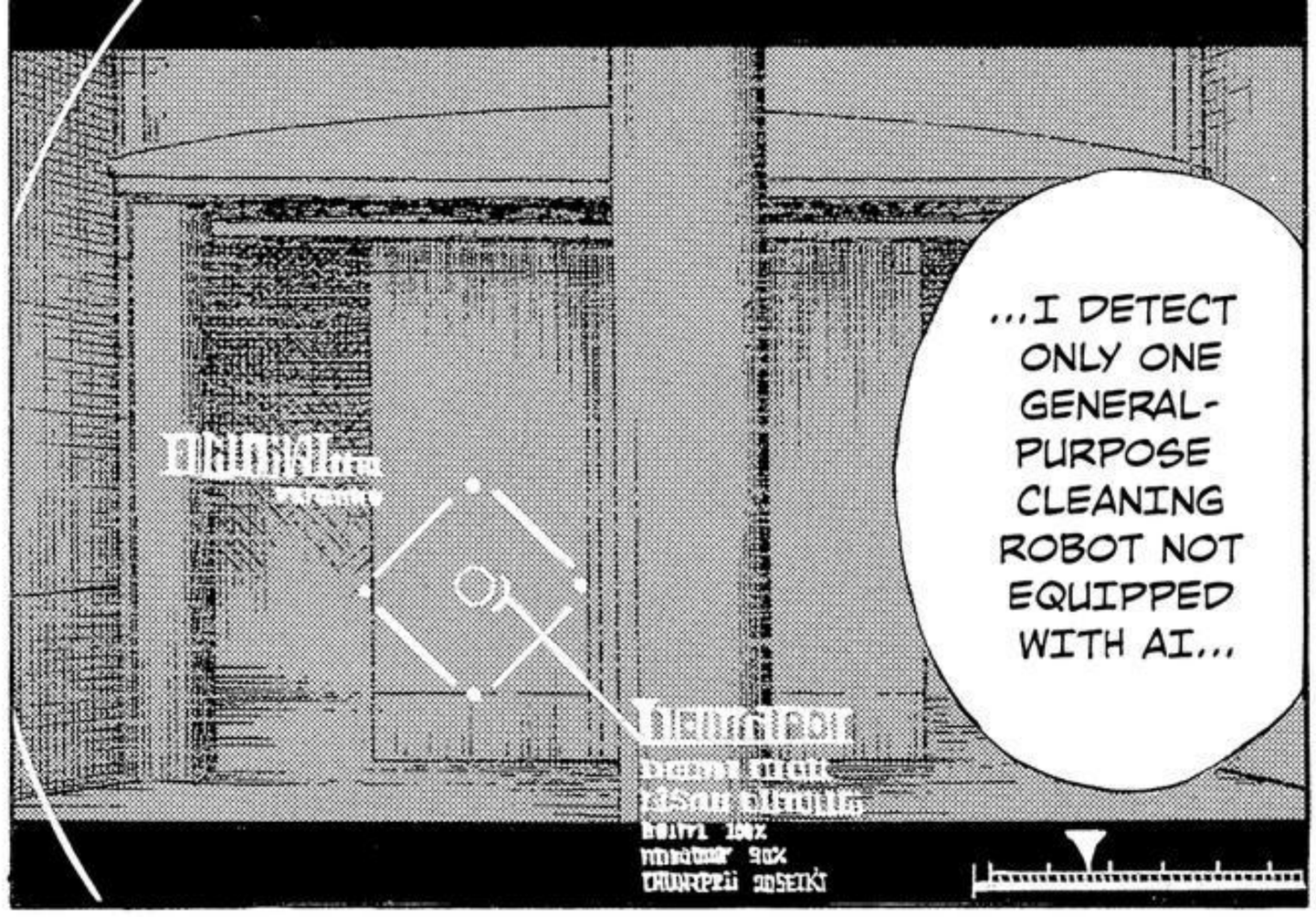
DON'T WORRY, MR. HAAS, YOU'RE NO TROUBLE...
URP...
HOW WOULD A ROBOT KNOW HOW I FEEL...

SHOOM







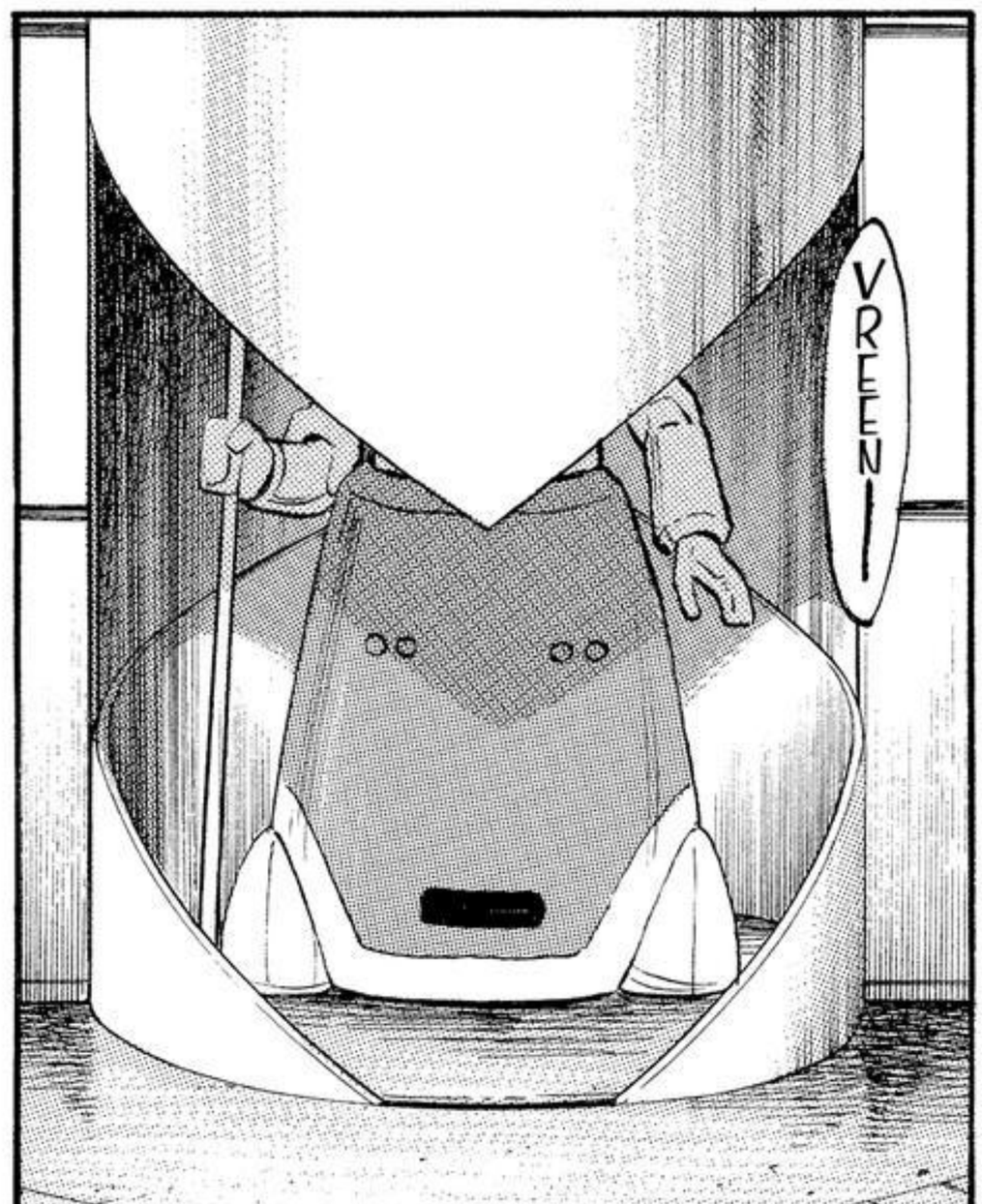

...I DETECT ONLY ONE GENERAL-PURPOSE CLEANING ROBOT NOT EQUIPPED WITH AI...

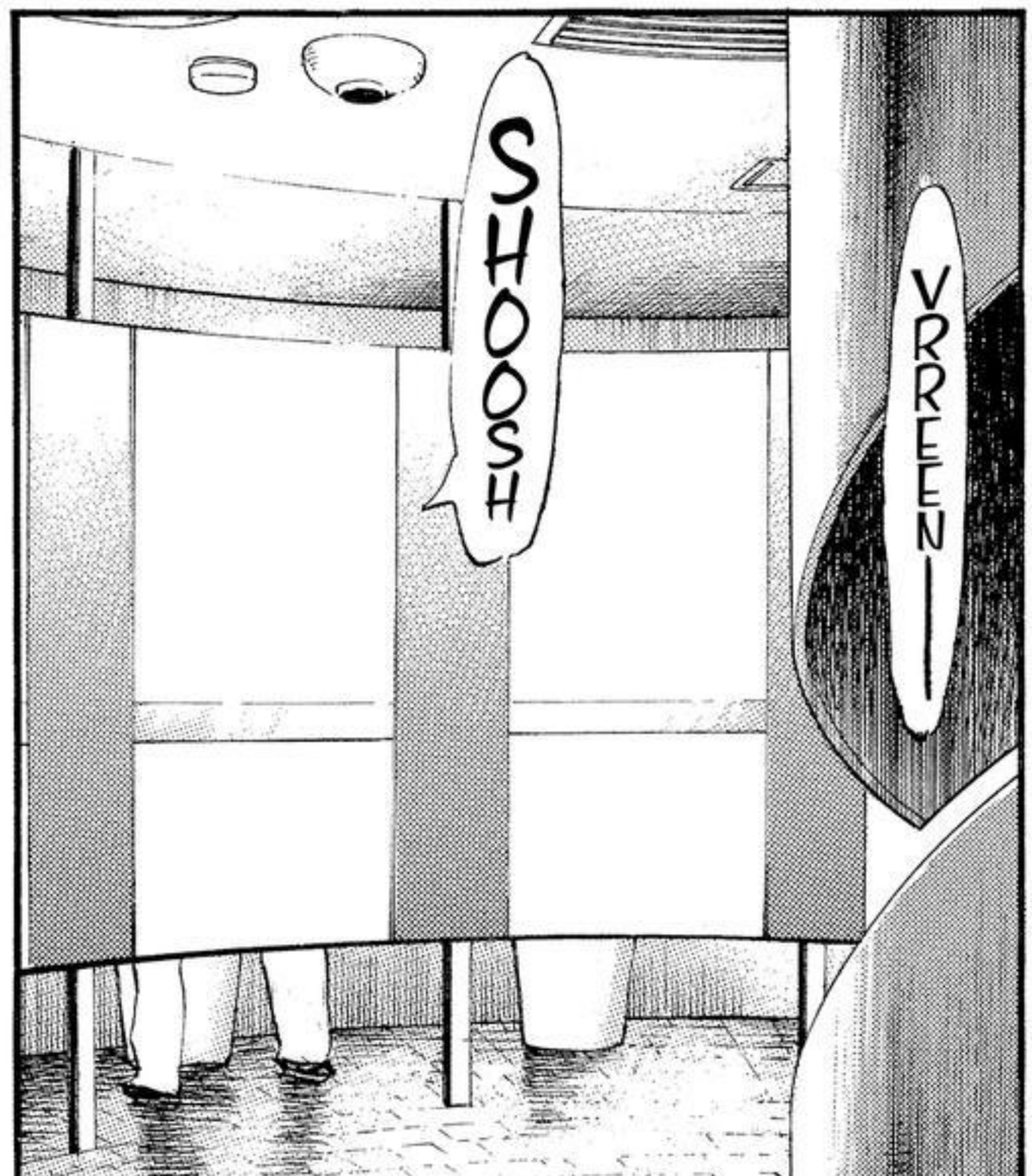
AND INSIDE...

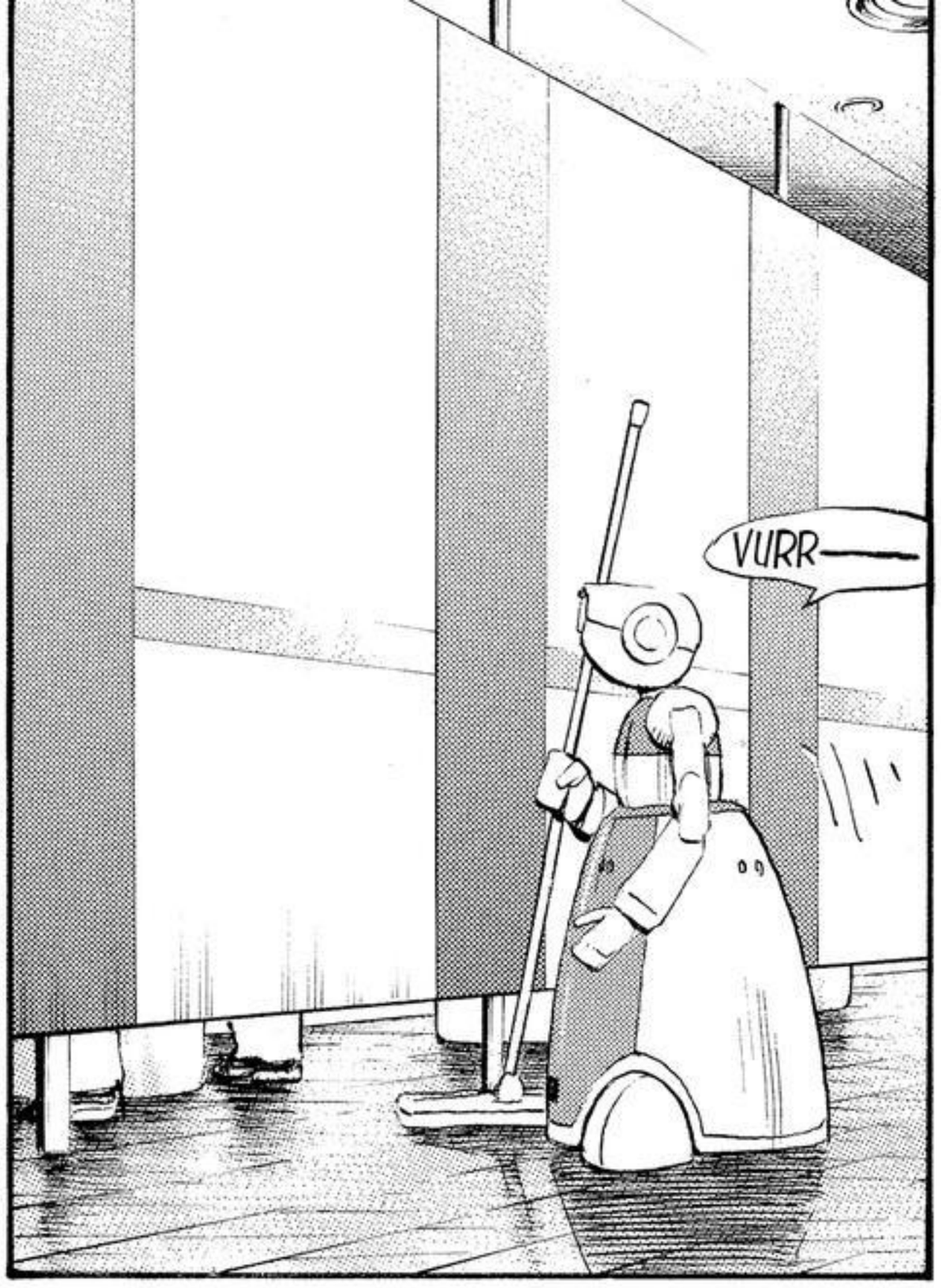
HUF
HUF

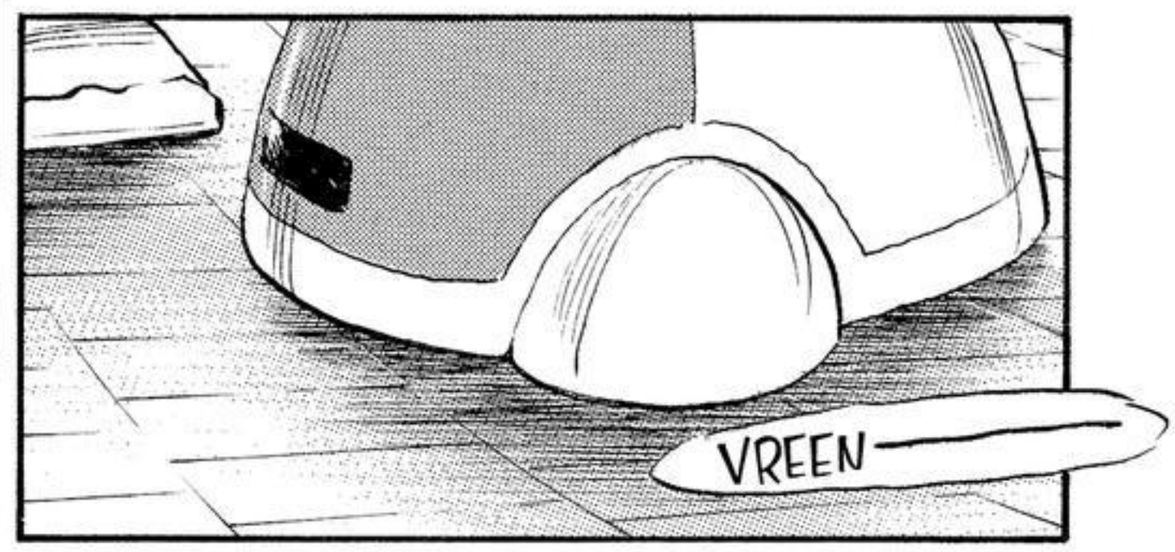
SLOOSH

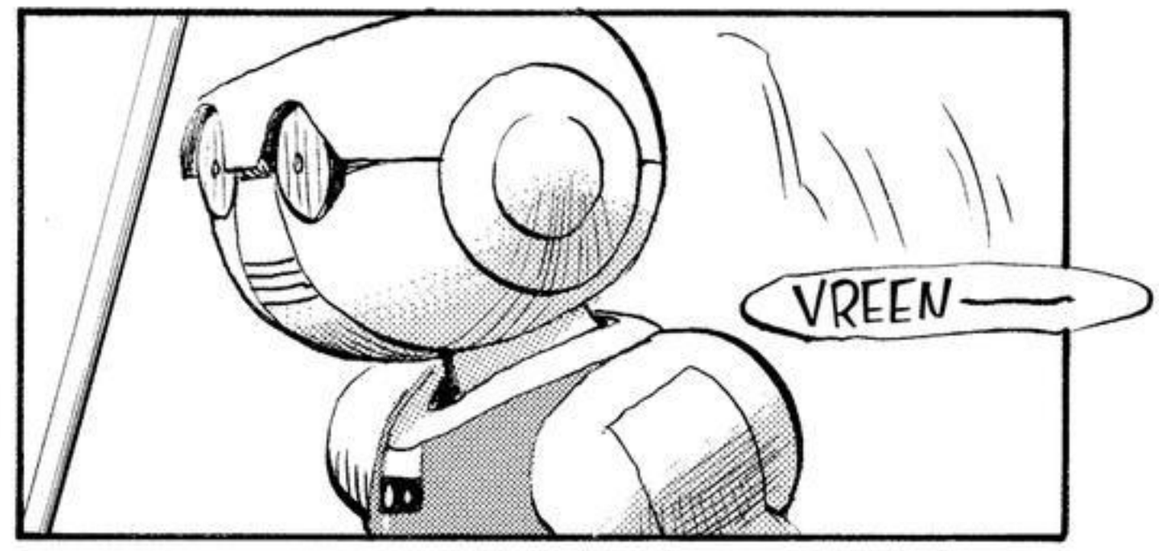
RETCH...


VREEN!

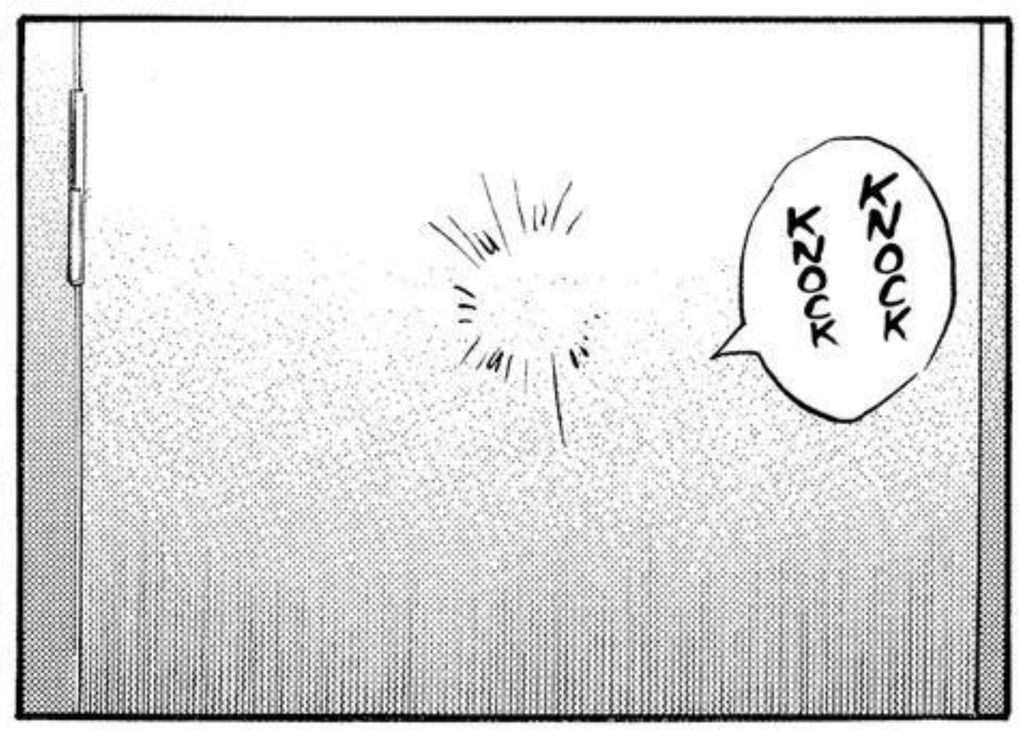

SHOOSH
VREEN!

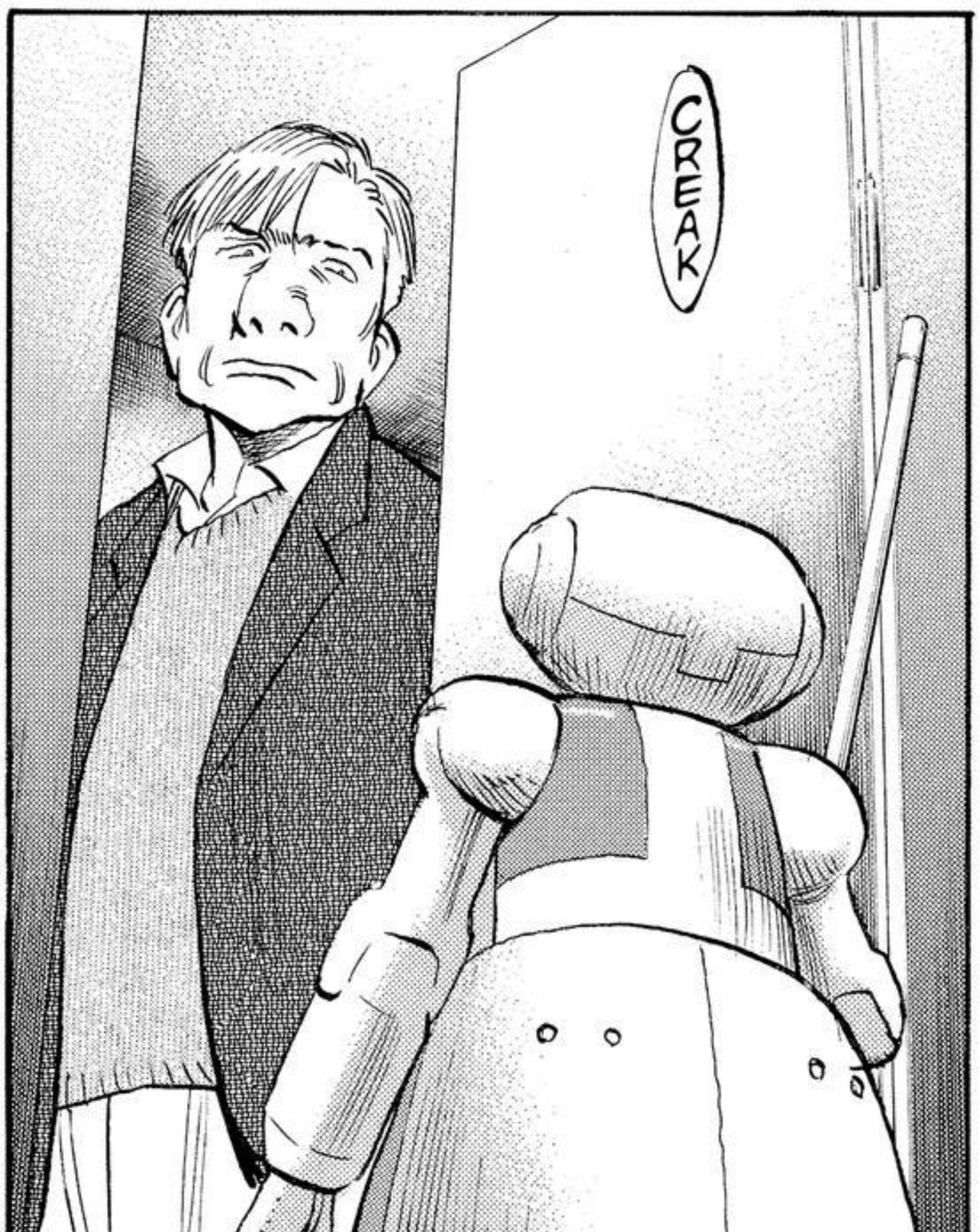

VURR——

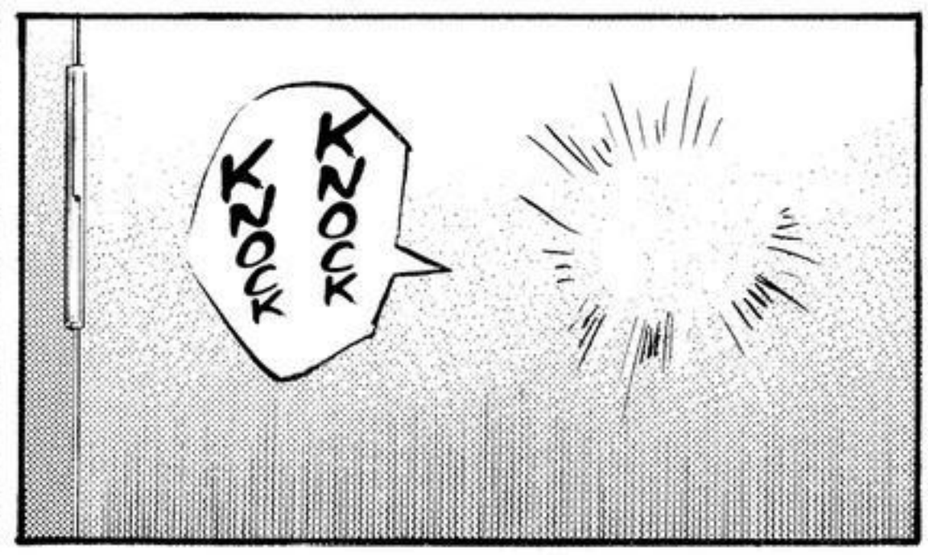

VREEN——


VREEN——

OCCUPIED...

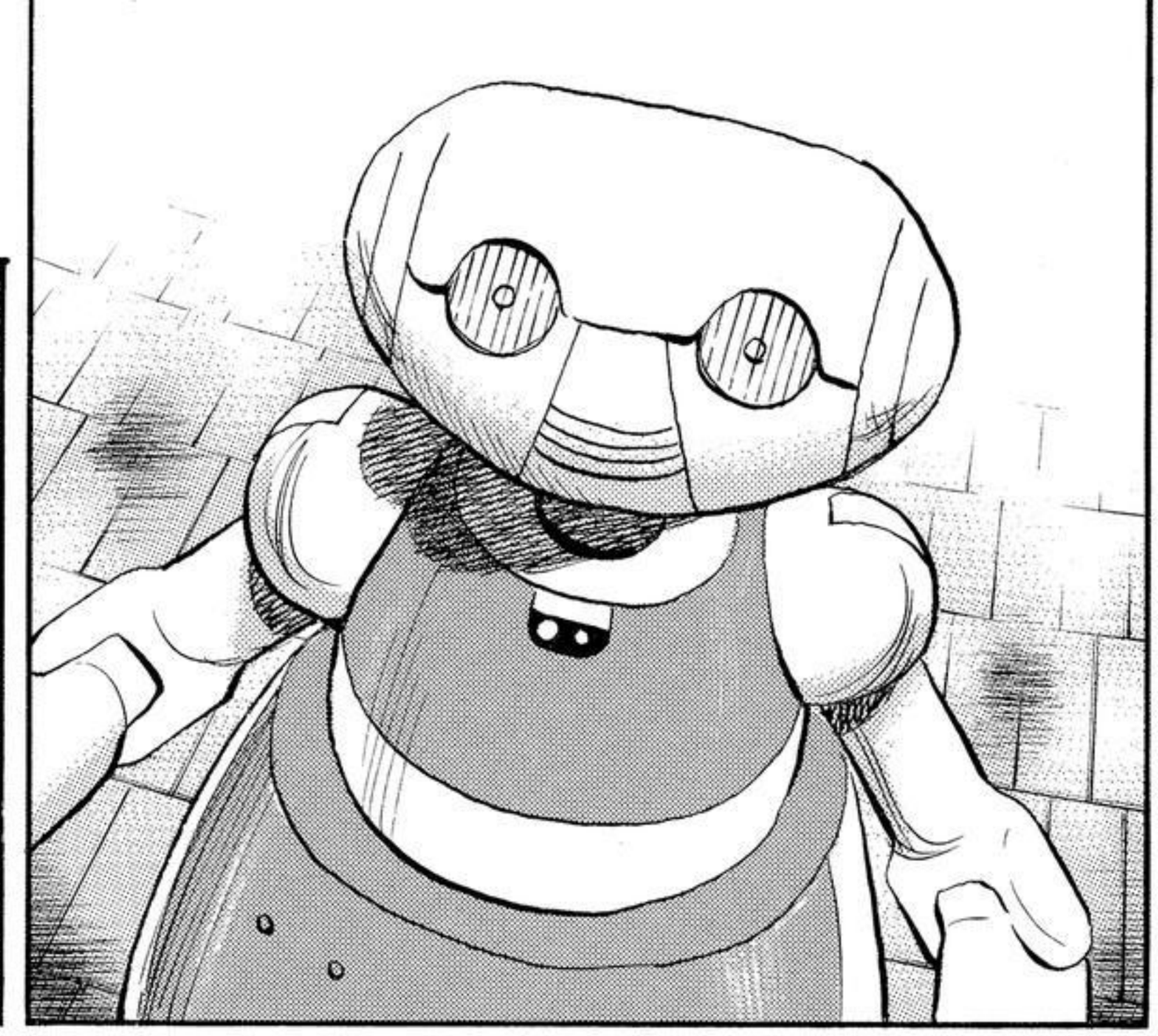

KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK

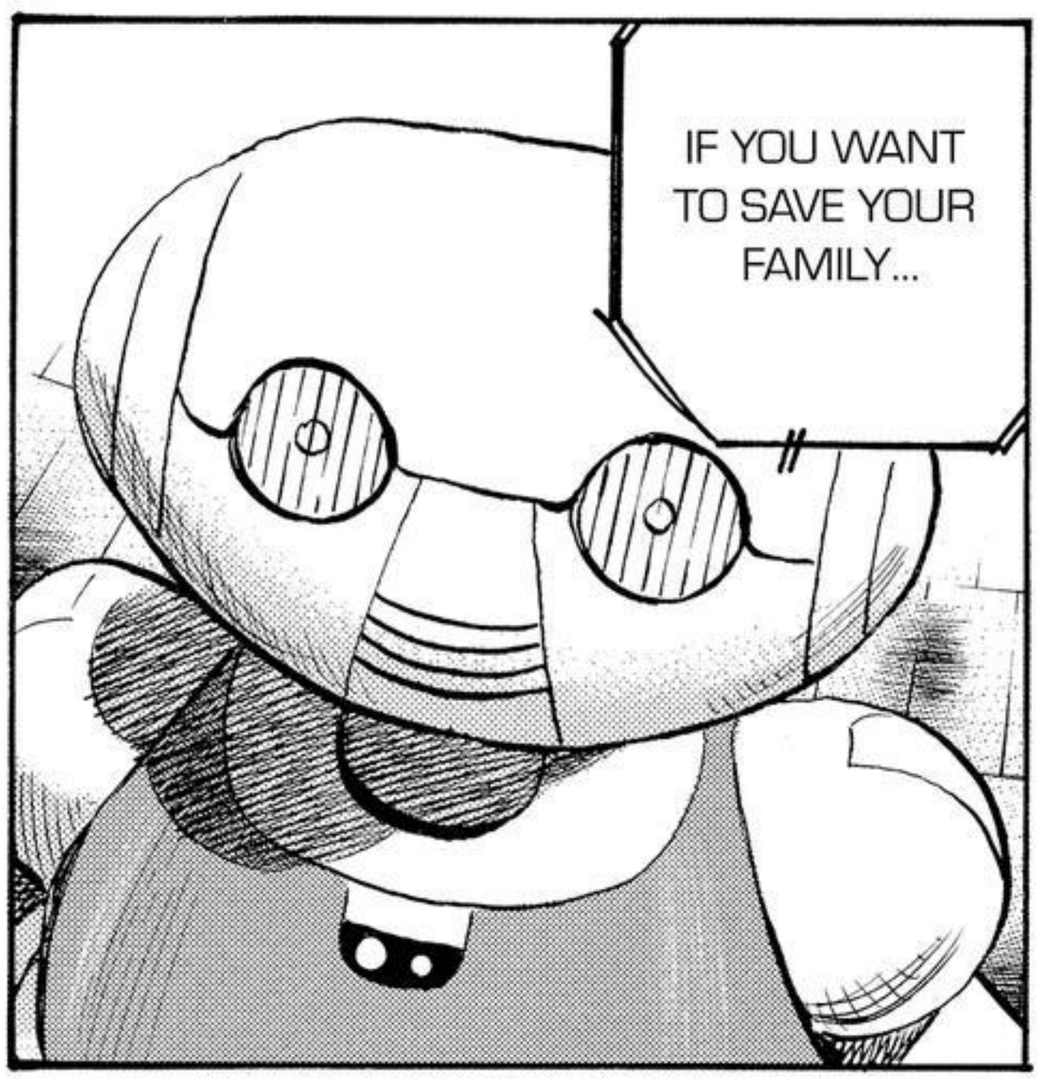

CREAK

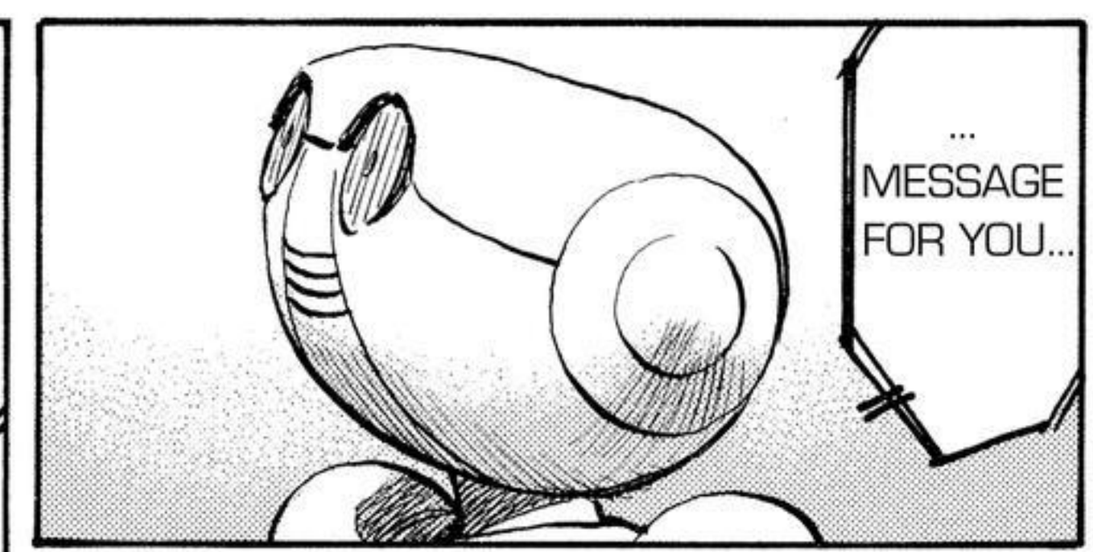

KNOCK KNOCK

I SAID, IT'S
OCCUPIED!!

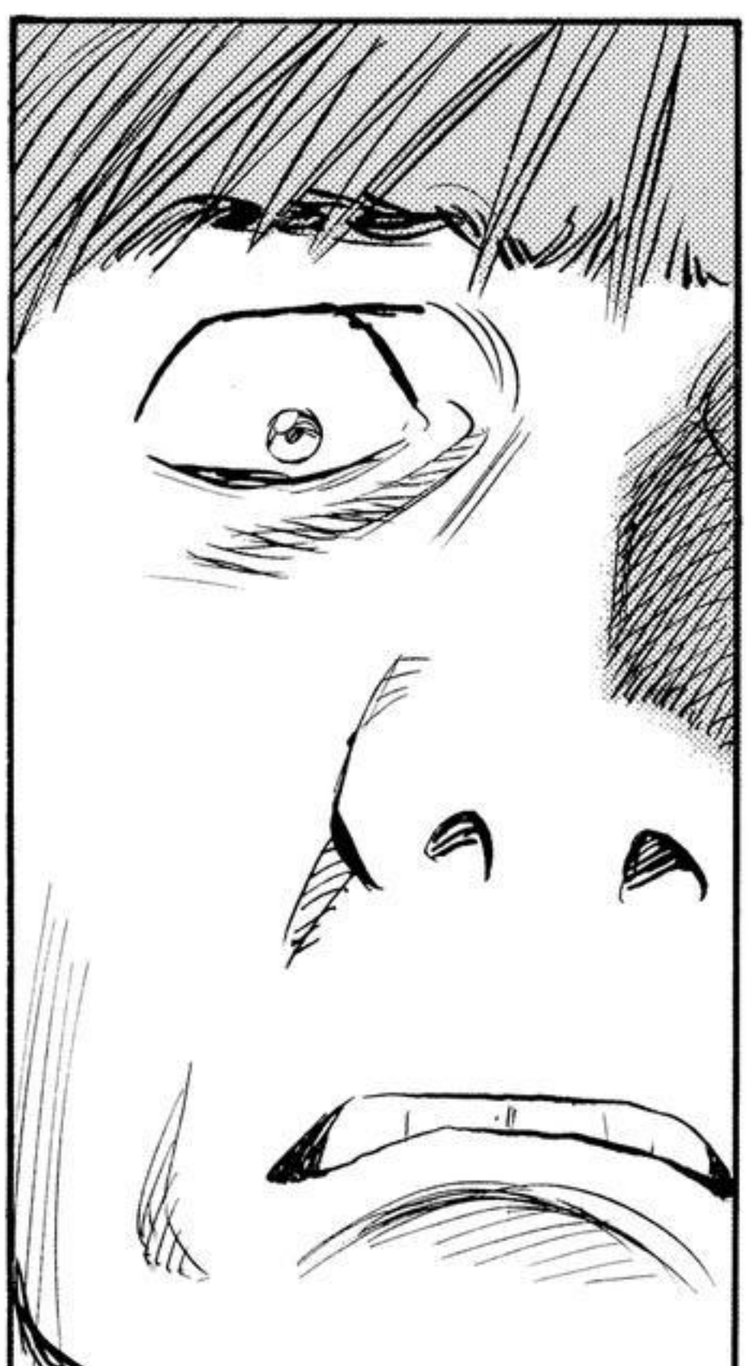
HMPH... A CLEANING-BOT...

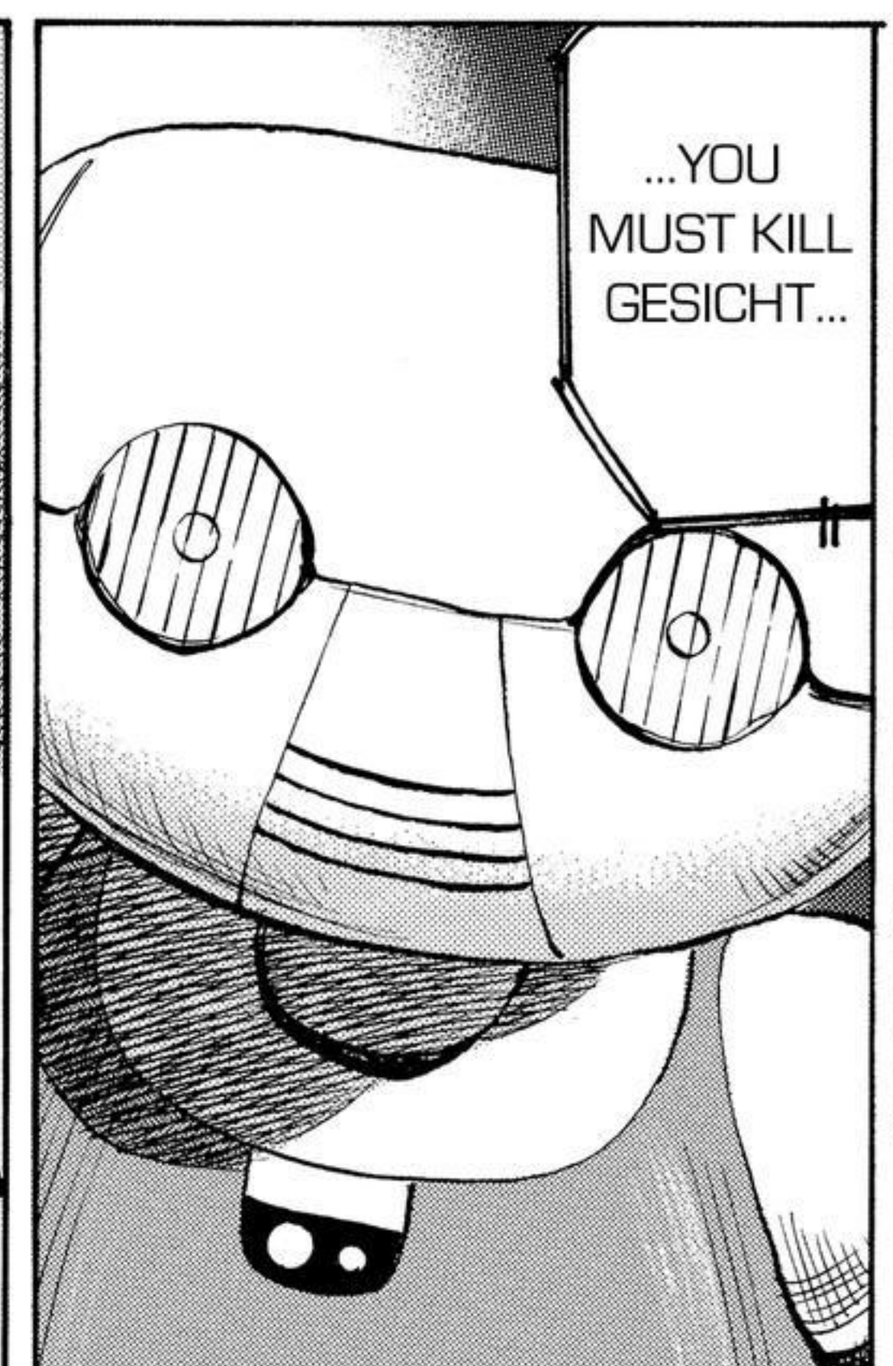


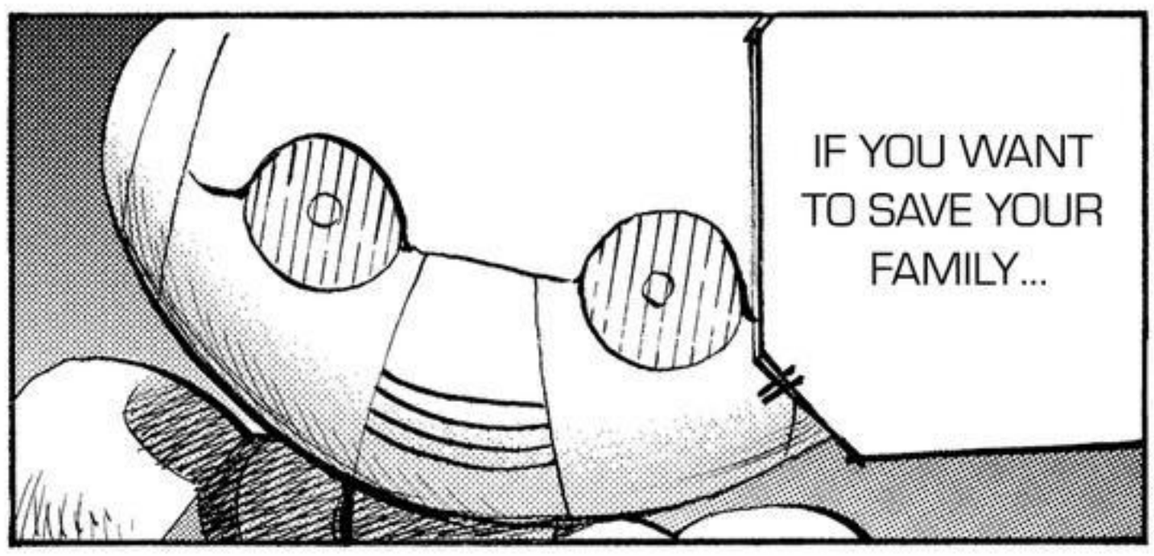

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY...

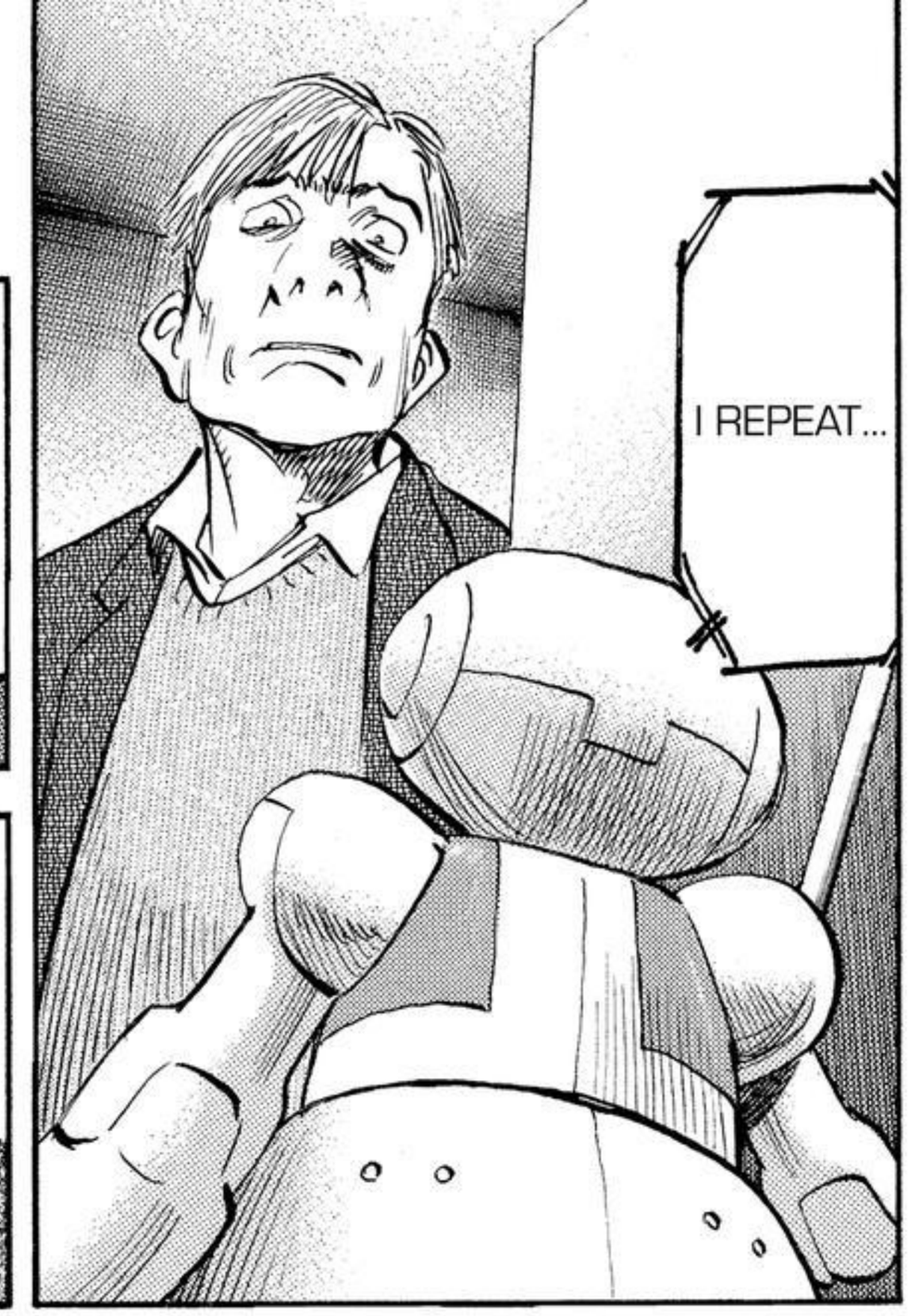

... MESSAGE FOR YOU...

WHAT?




...YOU MUST KILL GESICHT...

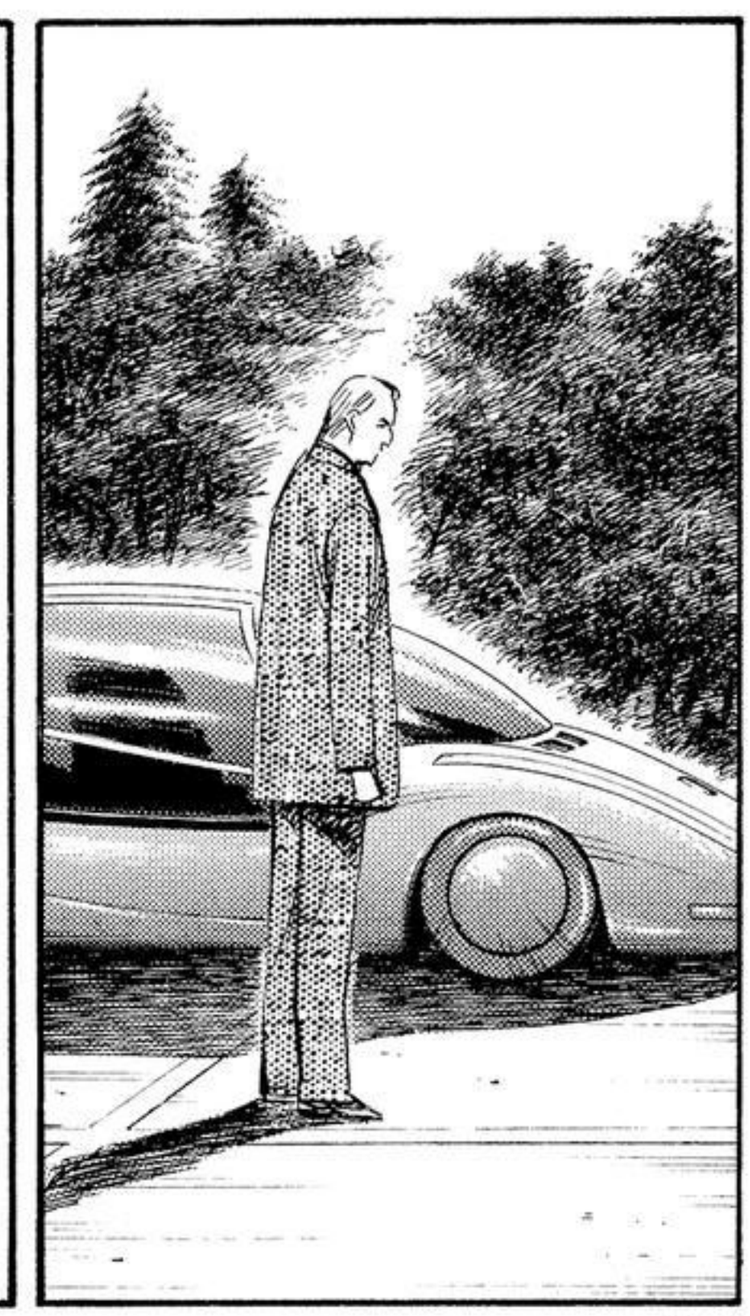

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY...


I REPEAT...

NO...
N...

NOOO ...!!

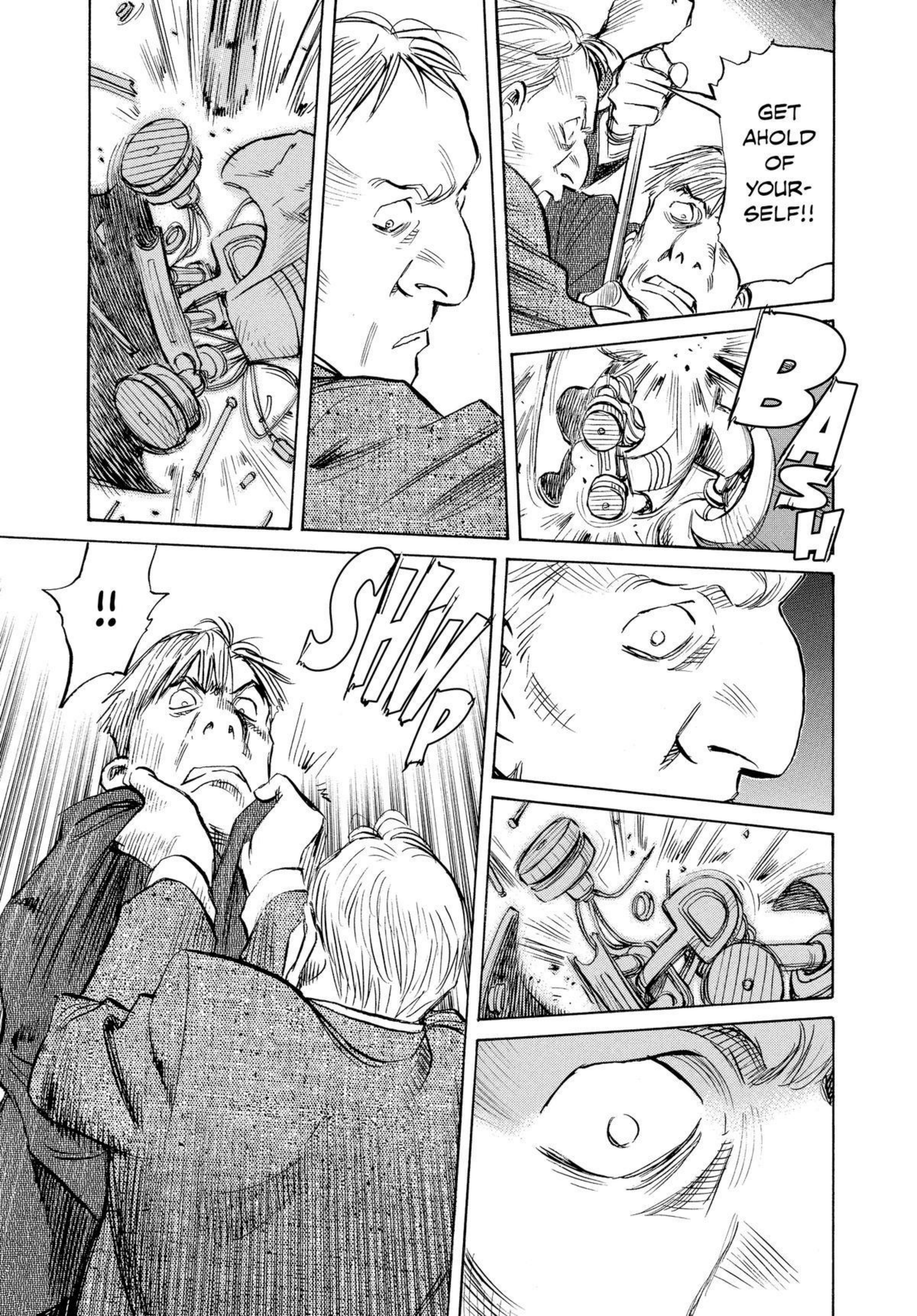
ARGHH!!



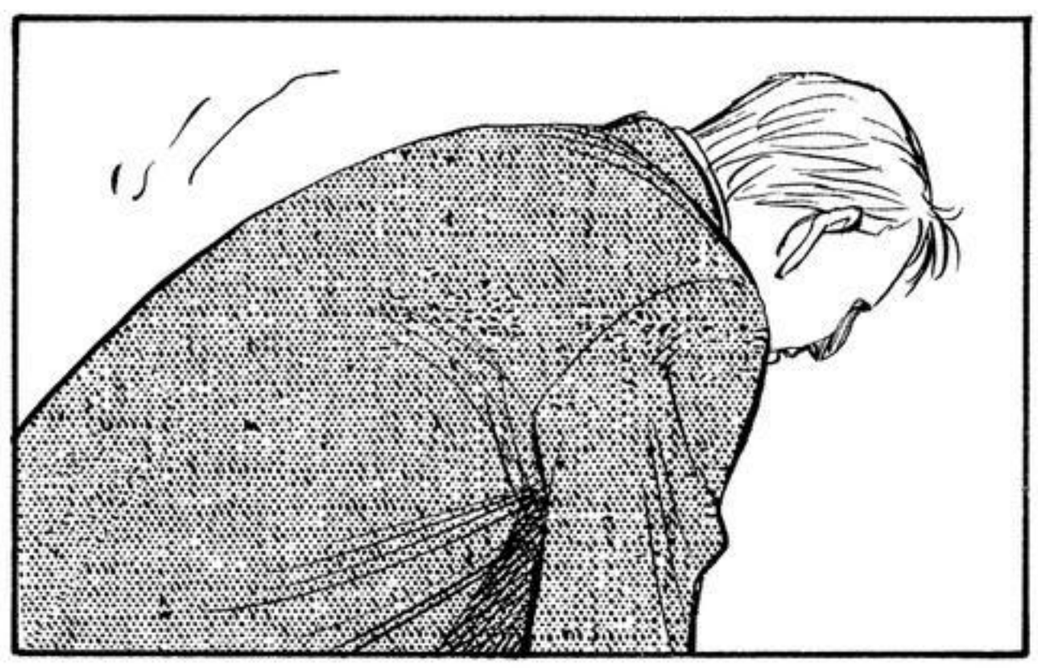
GRAII!

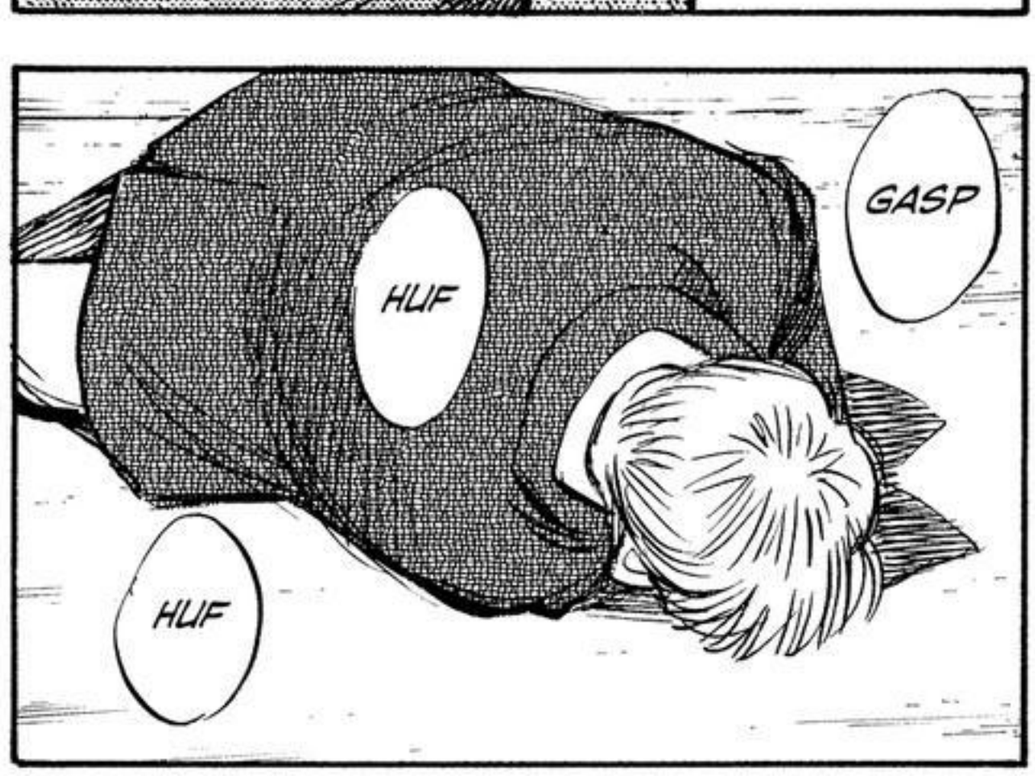
MR. HAAS !!

SMASH
BASH
DAMN YOU!
MR. HAAS!
BASH

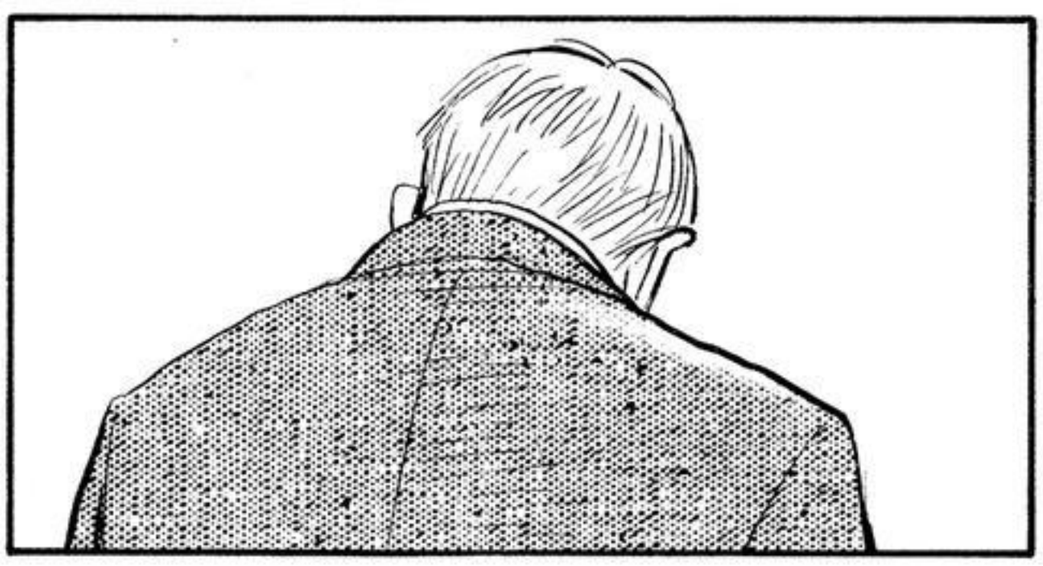

GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!!
BASH
!!
SHIP

I SAID STOP!!





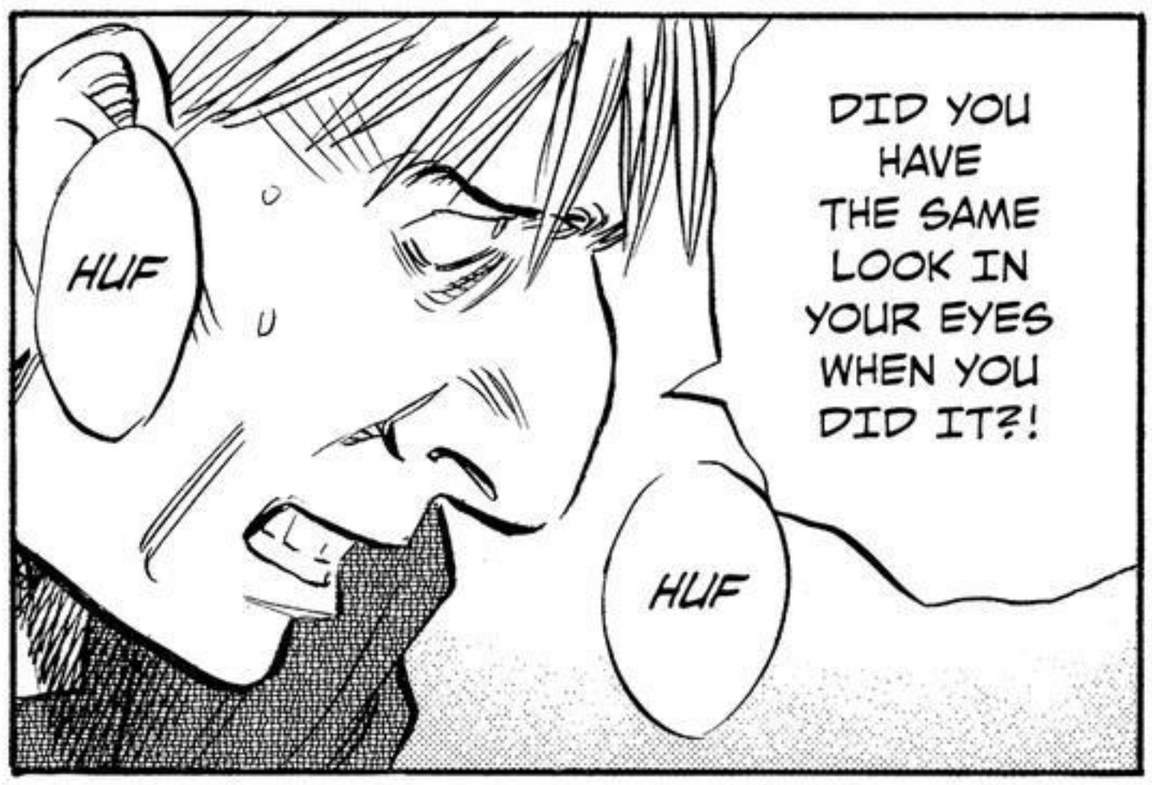
HUF
THERE IT IS...
HUF



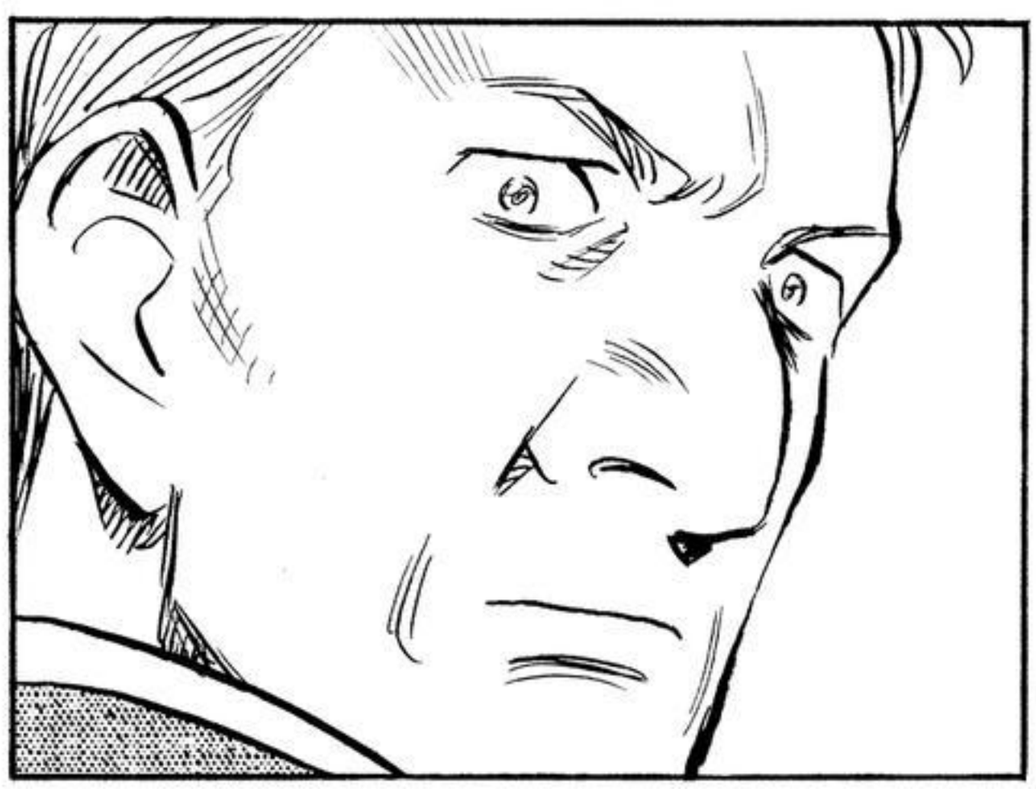
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
YOU'VE FINALLY SHOWN YOUR TRUE COLORS, GESICHT...
HUF

DID YOU HAVE THAT SAME LOOK ON YOUR FACE THAT TIME TOO?


HUF
DID YOU HAVE THE SAME LOOK IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU DID IT?!
HUF

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUF
HUF


DID WHAT?!

WHEN YOU KILLED HIM...
HUF
HUF

WHEN YOU KILLED MY BROTHER ...

ATOM WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE BEST OF HUMAN TECHNOLOGY.
LISTEN, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU ...
ATOM WAS *NOT* A FAILURE, PROFESSOR TENMA!!

FRUSTRA-TION AND FAILURE ...

SEETHING HATRED...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE...

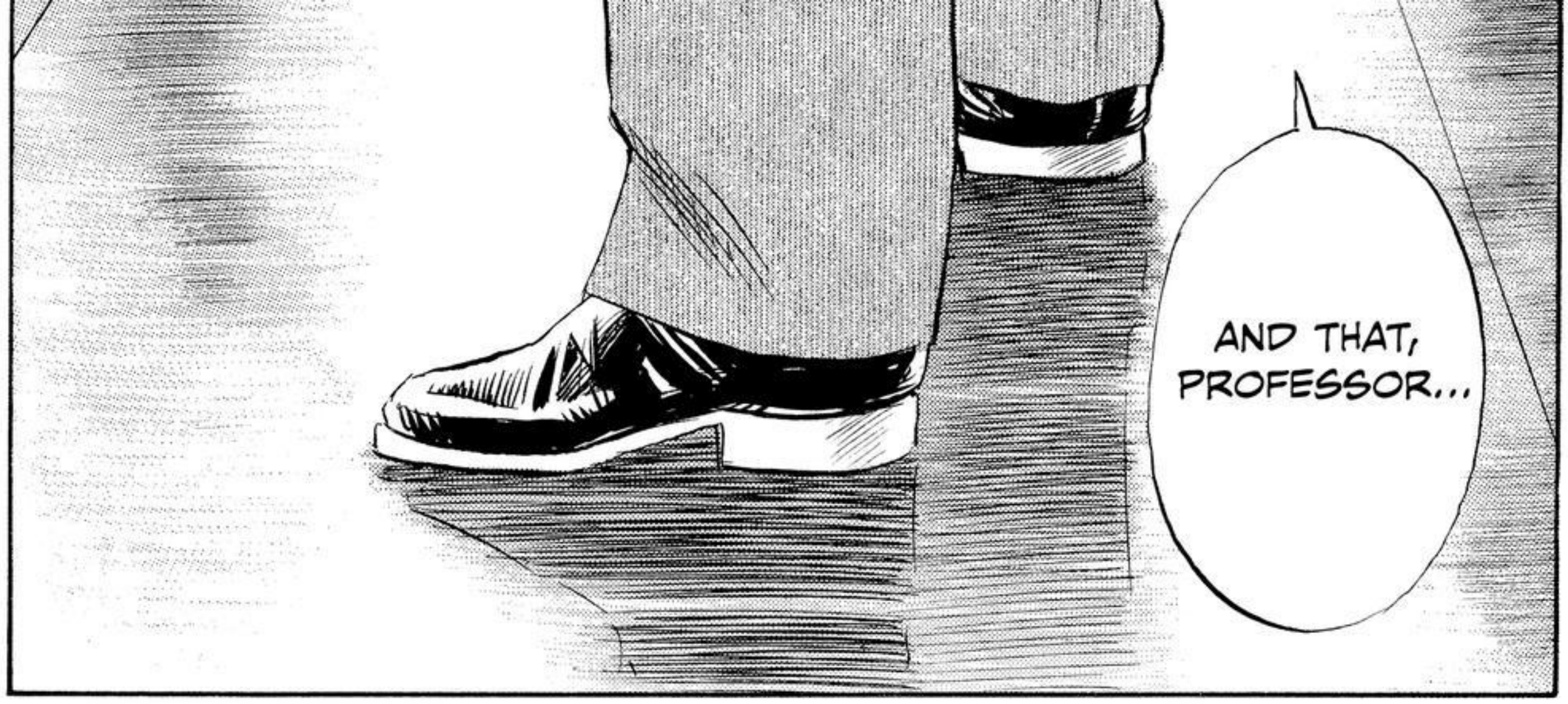
THAT'S WHAT FOSTERS TRUE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ...

EMOTIONS SO POWERFUL THEY LEAD ONE TO WANT TO KILL...

PERFECTION IS IN THE MIND THAT MAKES MISTAKES...

YOU'RE WRONG.

YOU'RE VERY WRONG, PROFESSOR TENMA.


AND THAT, PROFESSOR...

...IS WHAT WILL GIVE BIRTH TO *THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH...*

PLUTO: URASAWA × TEZUKA
VOLUME 7
VIZ SIGNATURE EDITION

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SUPERVISED BY Macoto Tezka
WITH THE COOPERATION OF Tezuka Productions

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ORIGINAL LOGO & COVER DESIGN Mikiyo Kobayashi + Bay Bridge Studio
VIZ SIGNATURE EDITION DESIGNER Courtney Utt
EDITOR Andy Nakatani

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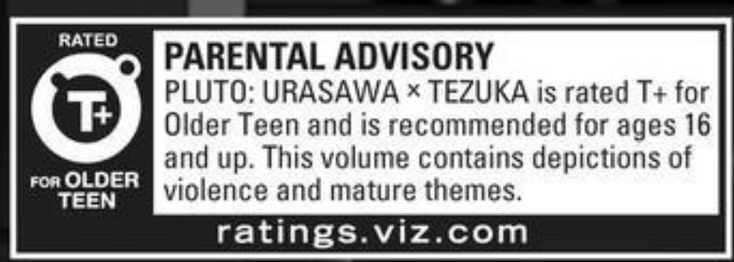
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